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SKRATCH

june 1997
issue 16

allday
buck 0 nine
cause for alarm
devics
drain bramaged
final conflict
go dog go
heckle
knapsack
lunchtruck
mealticket
my own victim
one hit wonder
p-town pubsters
refused
shades apart
vandals

special photo issue

music
skate snow rants
how to choke in the playoffs -rhmq
5 ways to cook meat
things you could care less about
you know what- go to hell, you're not even reading this because you have an attention span the size of a tick.

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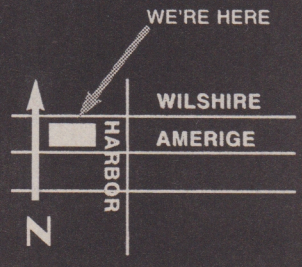

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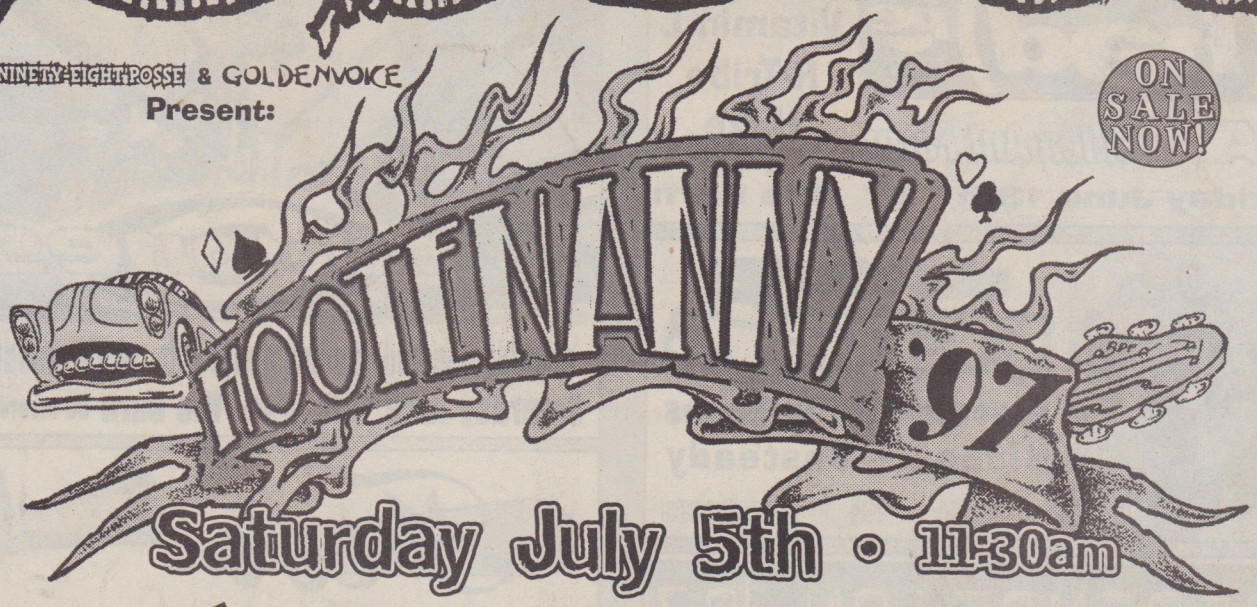

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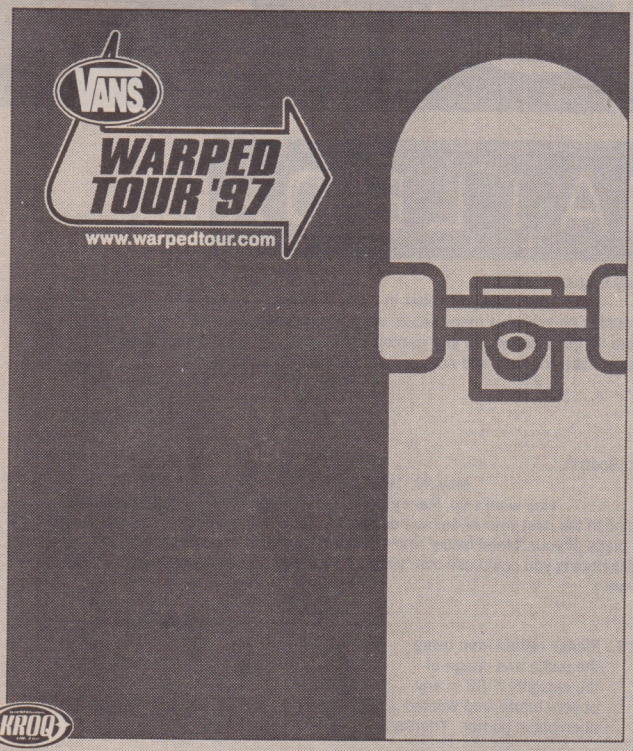

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SOME SHIT IN OUR MAILBOX

A LITTLE SOMETHIN' FOR YOUR MAILBOX

Kudos to Mel Torment and SKRATCH magazine for producing that fine interview about KOO'S: "The Original Will Not Fall," in your May issue. KOO'S has received more than its fair share of harassment and criticism by council members, press agents, the police, and plenty of other individuals who don't have their facts straight. Finally, a fair article from the source: the guys that run the place. Dennis, Mark, and everybody else involved at KOO'S give 110% just to keep the place open and the good shit they do for the community and the scene as a whole gets overlooked in controversies about door donations and graffiti. Thanks to SKRATCH for keeping it real.

Veronica

Artesia, CA

From: David Turbow
Re: Late Breaking News

LOCAL BANDS should beware of a man who calls himself RANDY CRASH from Garden Grove, CA. He claims to work for Avalon Attractions and is offering local bands the chance to play at Orange County Fairgrounds with 200 bands (including Marilyn Manson, Rage Against the Machine, and the Mighty Mighty Bosstones) in January of 1998. Mr. Crash requires that local bands send him promotional materials, such as stickers, t-shirts, and compact discs, if they want to sell such materials at "the show" (all merchandise must be approved by the man himself). However, Mr. Crash mysteriously does not "have the time" to provide any written confirmation of the lineup, time slots, or merchandising arrangements for measly unsigned bands. Upon one follow up call, it was learned that Avalon Attractions has never heard of this man, and that there is no such event scheduled at OC Fairgrounds. This is a man making false promises in an attempt to acquire free goods. Lesson to be learned: save your promotional materials for legitimate concert promoters, and never be afraid to ask for something in writing.

To: Frank Cardoza
From: Chris
Date: May 15, 1997
Re: A Fucking Rant

I just got done reading your article in SKRATCH. I have to agree with you wholeheartedly on the topics you bring up. Being employed by Nitro Records has shown me the other side of the record business, the not so glamourous side. It seems as though everybody is out to get everybody else in this business especially when it has to do with the "punk rock" side of things.

This genre is the only one I can think that places such ridiculous limits on the bands that fall into it. I don't think kids that like metal really give a crap what label Mettalica or Marilyn Manson are on. Those kids buy the records because they like the music not because its an indie label or a major label. The whole thing is really ridiculous if you really look at it. The label doesn't make the music, the band does and if the band stays true to what they believe in the fans should not have anything to worry about.

I am sure we are one of the few labels around who actually pay our bands what they are due. Unfortunately there are a lot of good bands out there (Homegrown) that are getting screwed over by their labels. In return we get a lot of shit for "selling out" our bands from kids who don't know anything about how it really works. The whole thing has become quite frustrating.

As far as The Offspring vs. Epitaph thing goes I have heard both sides of that story and don't care to go into it. Mr. Brett needs to look at his situation right now and realize that if it wasn't for The Offspring he probably wouldn't be able to keep bands like Rancid, Pennywise, and NOFX on his roster. I like about 99% of the bands he has at Epitaph and I think it is great that he delivers good music to the people who wanna hear it.

Lastly, I agree with you-- THE SHIT-TALKING NEEDS TO STOP. Last time I checked there was no "PUNK ROCK HANDBOOK" so everyone should be more concerned about themselves instead of bagging on everyone else for doing what they want. Thanks for your time.

Chris
Nitro Records
P.S. I like Offspring, Rancid, & Bad Religion.

Hey Frank,

I just read your letter in Scratch. Bravo! I know exactly how you feel. You wouldn't believe how many letters we get from shitheads like Dave Liberation. God I hate tht guy! Anyways I just wanted to thank you, and wish people would be more honest like yourself, and not jump on the bashing bandwagon!

Take Care
Rick Sh?pley
(Nitro shit worker)

To Scott P.

May 20, 1997

Hey what's up, Randy here. I don't think I have sent you any zines of mine in the past year or so, so I decided to send one out to ya. You'll notice I jacked a piece of your "Metal Issue" and I reviewed a couple of issues of Skratch as well. I was hoping you could use this "vintage" flyer too. That's about it, keep up the good work.

-Randy Robbins

P.S. Please refrain from using the name and image of the almighty KISS in any of your future limp-wristed attempts at humor. Thanks.

HELLO GUY!!!
DEAR EDITOR OF SKRATCH,
Greeting friend. Do you still remember me? I'm DEE from MALAYSIA, writing to you. How are you? Hope you be fine. First of all I would like to thank for your feedback and nice fuckin sticker. In your letter you said that you want to hear a story from MALAYSIA scene. It no quite big as in USA or in EUROPE. Maybe it small but it also great. Back to our story, there a lot band like a growing mushroom. The band like ACAB, Belacak, Boot-Off, Skinrover's, Voice Of Anger, Disaster Funhouse, and many more trying to survive in our scene.
ACAB, the name taking from 4-SKINS song. They play oi!/ ska. They also great with their live show (gigs). They has released their EP called UNITE AND FIGHT. The next band is BELACAK they play punk rock/ oi! Also great. BOOT-OFF and SKINROVERS, this two band also play oi! Besides that the band DISASTER FUNHOUSE plays OLD SCHOOL HARDCORE style this band influenced by MINOR THREAT, YOUTH OF TODAY, BLACK FLAG, and BAD BRAINS. The band that also play OLD SCHOOL style tune is upright the SXE band.
Allright, mate that all the fuckin time I have for you. I hope that I can heard you fedback soon, especially about oi/ ska. I hope you enjoy my writing. If you want know about MALAYSIA scene write to me. My address is up there. Have a great fuckin day!!! See Ya!! Cheerio....

UNITED AS ONE
YOUR FRIENDS,
MALAY SKINHEADS
Pahang Darul Makmur,
W. Malaysia

P.S.
please send my fucking regards to all cops at your place and remember: ALL COPS ARE BASTARD.

Dear Dan G.,

I am very dissapointed with your attendance at the Gwar show at The Galaxy. We took a stand to boycott the venue. I have done my part in not stepping foot in that crapbox, but you-you are a hypocrite. If anyone acknowledged Dan's (see staff list) presense that night-it was his own actions and these actions I have no part of. And-Dan, I find it really funny how you then complained how the security there was still out of hand. Maybe, you learned a lesson: some things never change. Well, I know I won't-I will never step foot in there. You suck! See you tomorrow-fucker!

Sincerely,
Scott Presant

Put like some words on like some paper in one of those paper things and put a stamp on it and then uhhh we'll like input it into the computer and put it in page for people to read. See, it's easy! Send Yo' shit to: SKRATCHFUQ 1242 Caracas DRIVE PLACENTIA, CA 92870

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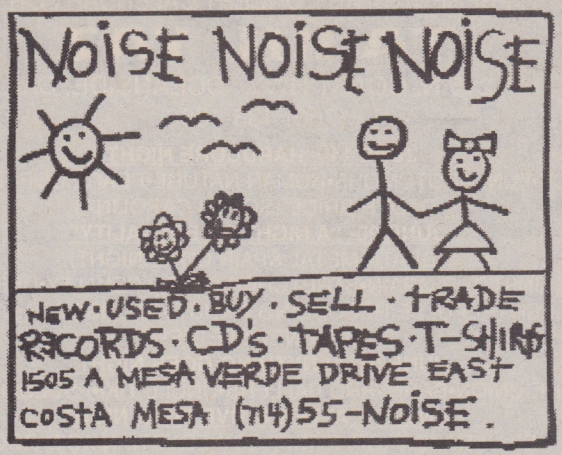

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DEAD KENNEDYS

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Placentia, CA 92870

Since you freaks don't read, we put together this special photo issue because you're so fucken special. Do you like being called special? Yep, I knew you did. Think positive. You're special-each and every one of you.....oh, is that a tiny iddy biddy smile I see? Good. That's nice, isn't it?
And always remember if you scream loud enough, someone will hear.

-scott presant

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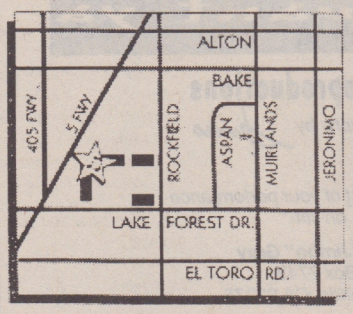

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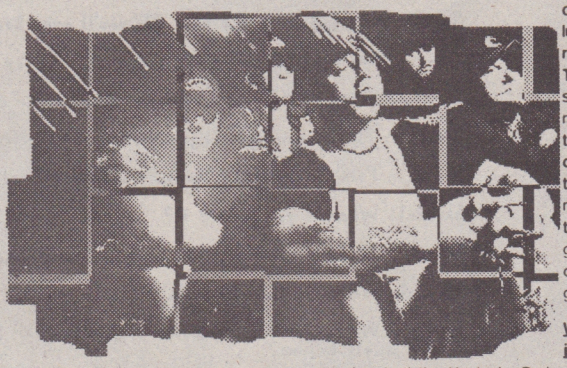
How would you best describe My Own Victim ?
It's crossover--we don't' know how were gonna change in the next couple of years we'll never follow trends--in the future we'd like to add certain types of elements to our music.But, it will always be aggressive.

What's the most important to you about My own victim?
Being able to release my aggression through music.

What hobbies do you guys partake in?
We dedicate almost all of our time to the band. Ivan likes fixing his car. Jeff's favorite pastime is bitching about everything. Brian's is smoking dope. And Todd- every day after he gets off work he goes to this local bar called Cocktails. He 's like Norm. My hobby is keeping them all in line.
....I'm the babysitter. Each one of us are different and expect different things. We've been the same line-up since 94--our first ep with Century Media.

What can you tell me about Century Media?
We're happy with them especially Century Media in Europe. They pushed us a lot for the new album. Ever since the beginning the Europe has always supported us. It's nice to see the U.S. Century Media has supported it now. We are trying to tour the states in July. If it was up to us we would stay on the road.



What are your feelings on today's music industry?
The record labels make 95% of the money. They tell most of the bands they aren't selling records. But they keep releasing the bands records. Most of the bands in the contracts where they can't get management. The contracts are so fucked up in letting anyone else get money. I've talked to several other bands on different labels and it's the same situation. Not having management puts you on a certain level, because you have someone fighting in your corner. We don't have that and we can't get to the next level. We just need one state tour. We've built up a following in Europe but not in the states. Century Media is doing a great job of promoting the records --now it's up to us to get out there and play live.. it's really hard to get a tour in the states-everyone's helping out there brothers. It's hard coming out of Kentucky for management and other bands --people in the industry to take a band seriously from Kentucky--it doesn't matter where you from it should be based on music not image. The big problem is their is a lot of people working at labels that don't know what the fuck there doing--and that's the truth. In the future (3-4 yrs.) Century Media has changed so much in the last year or two.

Any bands you know from O.C.?
Ignite, Strung out. Ignite is killer live. We played with them in Germany with Millencollin. I saw Ignite play and they kicked total ass that night. There was 40,000 people there--it was a free outdoor festival. It was really cool. The whole day it rained we came out at 8:00 and the sun was shining after we played it started hailing. The fans there are dedicated -- they're phenomenal--they stayed in the rain.

Do you consider your band hardcore?
We're not influenced by the new wave of hardcore. We're metal at heart- we all grew up on thrash on hardcore.

What do you feel is the difference from metal and hardcore?
I think the vocals are more intense in hardcore. Guitars in old agnostic Front was metal. Vocals and the drums--more aggressive.

What would be the most extreme contrast to what you play you and listen to?
Burgundy black--It was done in the 60's --it's tribal shit--it's kind of off the wall.

No billy Joel or anything?
I like elton John, Neil Young, The Beatles "Abbey road"--my bassist loves the BEatles. That's all he listens too.

If you could change one thing in the world what would you change?
Racism--and people respecting each other. we have a song 'called "Colorblind" --that touches on that topic.

What do want want out of life?
To be happy and content with anything I'm doing.

Do you feel you've had paid your dues?
I don't think you ever stop paying your dues. A lot of bands who are unsigned--once you sign a contract that's when you really start paying your dues. You gotta put a lot of touring and I just think that there's no end in paying your dues. Unless your a certain band you get lucky with your first record like Korn. They latched onto something new- the new sound. Now there's so much copycats destroying them. They need a new element to them. They're a great band. I'm curious where they're gonna take it next.

What is happening in Kentucky?
We just had the Kentucky Derby here. That's the only thing happening right now. There's not much to do here. There's a band called Kinghorse-out of caroline. Guilt and By the grace of God from Victory--are from Kentucky--Louisville. Louisville has a really great scene for touring hardcore bands.

Where would you like to move too?
Europe--- I like Germany a lot. Made a lot of good friends there. It's more down to earth there. I just had a friend from Germany visit-he feels everything is easier here in the U.S. --We'll jump in our car to go two blocks to the store--they think that's crazy, they walk--they recycle everything.

What would be the #1 label you would like to be on?
(Laughs--) I can't wait until century Media call us on this! Honestly, I would say Roadrunner--they've taken Vision of Disorder--they keep them on the road--everybody on the road knows who the fuck there are in one year. We're happy what Century Media has done with this new record.

How long have you guys been playing music together?
For three years --some of us have been together for nine years.

Any last comments?
If any readers here of us playing in your town check it out. Hopefully we'll be on tour in the states in July and Europe in September.

-Scott Presant

23 Q's & A's with ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN

When did you begin & how?
Electric Frankenstein began in 1992 with Sal, Jim, and Dan.
Favorite band?
Social Distortion!
Ages?
158 combined
Who slept with who in the band so far?
We all slept together on Lisa Boom's floor in Hollywood in the summer of '96.
Anyone homosexual or would like to be?
None of us are homo but I'd like to be a lesbian.
Favorite TV show?
X-Files.
Ever barfed on an airplane?
No, but I barfed on a boat though.
Any cool places you got laid at?
'61 Oldsmobile- - Dynamic 88.
What's your favorite MTV band?
None.
What's your definition of Punk?
Do it yourself!! That's what punk is all about!
What's your definition of Slut?
Sleazy & easy- A gal that loves to fuck!!
How many labels have you destroyed/ been on?
We've destroyed about 6 or 7 labels so far!
Do you think Punk or Ska is/ will be a trend?
I don't think Punk or Ska will ever be an actual trend but it will always be trendy to be Punk!
Best thing about the East Coast?
Girls! Girls! Girls!
Do you think Snoop Doggy Dog is next? (reference to drive by shooting)
No, I think next will be the Fresh Prince!
What inspires you as a musician?
Everything around me, especially stuff like great music, cool movies, and fast cars.
Tell us about the recording process of the last album.
Kamakazee weekend.
What do you guys do during the day?
Work sucky day jobs!
Ever thought of joining the Army?
No, maybe the Marines- they're few & proud.
Anyone ever been arrested before and for what?
Yeah, mostly for fightin' and trespassing.
What do you prefer? A) beer B) pot C) crack D) heroin E) playing hacky sack
Hacky sack is wack!
Do you think heavy metal will be making a comeback?
Heavy Fuckin' Metal is already makin' a comeback.
Anyone a computer geek?
I'm a computer nerd all the way.

There you have it- Electric Frankenstein, hailing from back east! They're computer geeks with lesbian potential and a damn good band!!

-Scott and Dan

Skratch: Who's puked the most?

Mike: Mike -- Mickey Big Mouth. I puke the most and Scott likes to eat it.

Skratch: Ever awaken in your own puke?

Scott: I've woken up a few times with piss on me.

Skratch: How much does it take to get drunk?

Doug: A lot of beer.

Skratch: Favorite alcohol beverage?

Doug: Dougweiser

Scott: Free beer.

Skratch: What do you like to do instead of drinking beer?

Doug: Drink.

Jon: I like to go out and buy beer.

Scott: We like to go to the Nudy Beer -- Fritzs II.

Skratch: Best groupie story?

Scott: Last week in Vegas, we asked these girls to show us their tits (a tit off) in the middle of our set.

Jon: They were challenging each other. And one took off her pants.

Doug: You can't use any of this stuff, so why talk about it?

Skratch: Have you ever loved a woman before?

Mike: Yes. what do you mean by love?

Skratch: What do you mean by love?

Mike: When they buy me free beers.

Scott: Is that a trick question?

Skratch: What is your longest time sober?

Doug: Two weeks sober.

Scott: Since the last beer.

Jon: These guys are dumb. I'm not talking anymore.

Jim: What?

(Laughs)

Skratch: What makes you happy?

Scott: That's a dumb question. Just put beer through the whole thing!

Doug: That's a trick question.

Jim: I know what makes me unhappy. When we go visit the Olympia Brewery and they're closed!

Doug: You're asking every question for the answer beer.

Scott: He's cheating. Erase this. He's cheating. How about the interview with Drain Bramaged?

Skratch: Is there another angle besides beer?

Scott: Doggy style and Nudy Bars.

Doug: Pot is.

Everyone: No, don't put that in there.

Doug: Okay, put marijuana in there. It's more political.

Jon: We all agree to put that in there because it's funny as hell.

Skratch: How do you define Drain Bramaged?

Jim: Beer.

Doug: Well it's . . . Forget it; I dunno.

Skratch: How do you define drunk?

???????: D-R-U-N-K. Scott's always drunk , and if he's not, he acts like he is.

Scott: Because I'm just dumb, what was the question again?

Skratch: Where is your favorite place to think?

Scott: The toilet.

Jon: I think there sometimes.

Jim: I don't.

Doug: Give me some of the beer.

Jon: That's a two day old beer. Scott will drink his own regurgitation.

Mike: I pissed in that!

Skratch: Tell me about the new CD.

Jim: It's got music on it.

Scott: If the CD skips you won't hear some parts of it.

Jon: If you play the CD, you'll hear it.

Doug: It's the best thing we've ever done.

Scott: It's probably the best CD you'll ever hear.

Jim: We all play on it. It turns. It's silver.

Skratch: What's different about it versus other stuff?

Jim: The recording and production was done a lot better.

Scott: Pete D. from the Addicts helped us and coached us along.

Skratch: Where'd you record it?

Scott: Malibu, right next to fucking Axl's house.

Skratch: Were you into Guns 'n' Roses?

Scott: We love that "Welcome to the jungle" because we've been to the jungle before.

Skratch? What's the jungle like?

Scott: It's warm and humid. It's like 88.7 degrees fahrenheit. How does that commercial go?

Mike: Shut up. Next question.

Jim: The CD's a good variety and a good production.

Mike: Jim's trying to get serious. The thing I like about the new CD is it's a new CD and I'm on it.

Jim: That was stupid.

Mike: I know, that's the best thing about the band.

Jim: Let's tell a story. We were in Oklahoma, and these guys traded CDs for tattoos and that's were Scott pissed in his pants because he out drank the Quincy Punks. And he got his eyebrows shaved.

Scott: I didn't know it for days. The thing is, I drank 14 god damn beer bongs and didn't puke. I went to a triple beer bong, and they couldn't believe it.

Mike: That's Scott's claim to fame. he can drink.

Scott: I can drink a lot. Anyone that wants to challenge me in a beer drinking contest -- I'll put you under the table. I have never been beaten.

Jim: Remember, you buy.

Skratch: When did you guys first start drinking?

Jim: Probably the minute I came out.

Mike: I know I was sippin beers when I was a little kipper.

Jim: I was 16.

Jim: I was 16.

Mike: Jim's a virgin, too.

Scott: No comment.

Skratch: If you're not drinking what would you wanna be doing?

:Probably doing an interview.

Scott: Going to the store to get more beer.

Mike: Matter of fact, we need another beer.

Scott: Ask another question besides about beer.

Mike: We do have a life . . a little.

Skratch: Really, tell me about it.

Mike: Well, I work every fucking day and it sucks.

Doug: Same as everybody.

Scott: We're all gonna grow up to be politicians.

Mike: Well, touring is the best part of my life. You wake up every day, start drinking, no responsibilities, look forward to the shows, you get paid 30 bucks and free beer. it's great.

Scott: If it was my world, we could drink and drive and kill and

Laughs

Scott: It's a form of population control instead of birth control. If you're gonna kill yourself, kill yourself drunk. Seriously, if everybody's drunk we would all drive the same way and no one would get in an accident. We'd all be going to the same place, the bar.

Jim: Why can't they just make us bumper cars like at Knott's Berry Farm. No one gets hurt.

Skratch: So you advocate drinking and driving?

Scott: Totally.

Mike: We have two DUI's in the band. John rolled his truck on the way home from bar. And he survived because he was drunk.

Jim: I thought Scott rolled his car. Didn't you roll your truck?

Scott: No I didn't.

Skratch: Who came up with the name Drain Bramaged?

Doug: Scott and Jon.

Mike: We're gonna change it like that Prince logo.

Skratch: What do you think about the other bands with the drinking concept, like on tap, and others.

Jim: They can't drink as much.

Scott: It's a good thing, we're tryin' to start a beer revolution instead of ska and punk. Drunk rock-punk rock.

Jim: There is a beer revolution and about five years ago there was only 3000 breweries and now there's 5000.

Mike: We're talking about bands.

Jim: No. We're talking about beer. Buy stock in any beer company.

Skratch: Do you guys play better drunk?

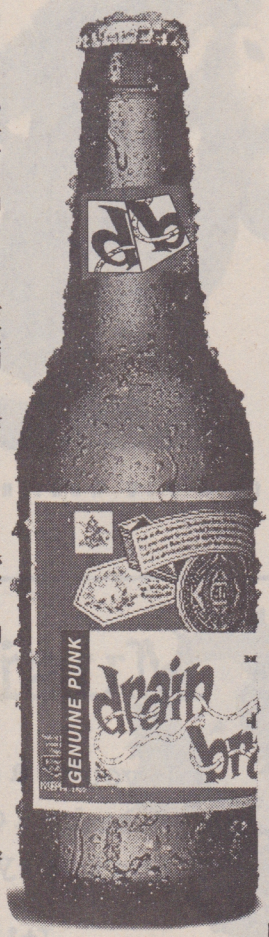
Jim: We believe we play better drunk. And no one can change that perception, so. . .

Skratch: Were you drunk when you recorded the album?

Mike: Pretty drunk mixing.

Jim: Not drunk, buzzed.

Scott: It's a blank spot in our life. Realistically, someone else came and played the music for us.



Skratch: What kind of magazines do you like reading?

Mike: Hustler, Playboy, MRR, local zines -- L.A. Times, -crap like that.

?????: Skratch.

Mike: Doug reads Playgirl.

Doug: So?

Scott: Don't forget the Skratch metal issue.

Jim: Skratch was cool when they had disco. That's when Skratch was at its height.

Doug: No.

Jim: They made a comeback with the glam thing.

Doug: No, that was way out.

Jim: No, no, it made money though.

Skratch: What would be the best thing to happen to Drain Bramaged?

Scott: To own our own brewery.

Mike: To make a living out of it.

Skratch: Do you think Drain Bramaged would still be fun without beer?

Jim: Can we drink Tequila if we don't have beer?

Mike: Is this thing recording?

Do you think you're a bad influence on Kevin? -- he's sober now- he doesn't drink anymore.

Scott: Who's Kevin? I think he's gonna drink.

Skratch: Favorite song off the album?

Jim: "Happy Drunks."

Mike: "Hangover" is a good one cuz I get to fall on my face and break my nose. Doug and I, by the way- busted our heads on a beam at a show.

Doug: I jumped first and hit my head, and he did afterwards. Of course, we didn't see the beams.

Skratch: I guess that's it unless you have anything else to say.

Doug: We have a lot of things to say.

Jim: Are we gonna do the interview now?
Mike: You got some good questions?

Jim: That was the interview? Ask us some questions and then we'll answer 'em.

Skratch: What are you really passionate about with your music?

Doug: I like the stage show better than the music actually.

Scott: Just having fun you know.

Mike: It's all about getting up and having a blast throwing beer at your local friends.

Scott: He mentioned beer again!

Doug: Breaking our skins on stage, fallin' in holes . .

Scott: Bottom line -- we're not into just playing tunes. We're into having a good time and putting on a stage show -- comedians.

Jim: Did you get an interview out of that?

Skratch: What would be the best way to end this interview?

Mike: Jam a few songs.

Jim: Drink another beer.

Scott: Fuck you. --------Laughs.

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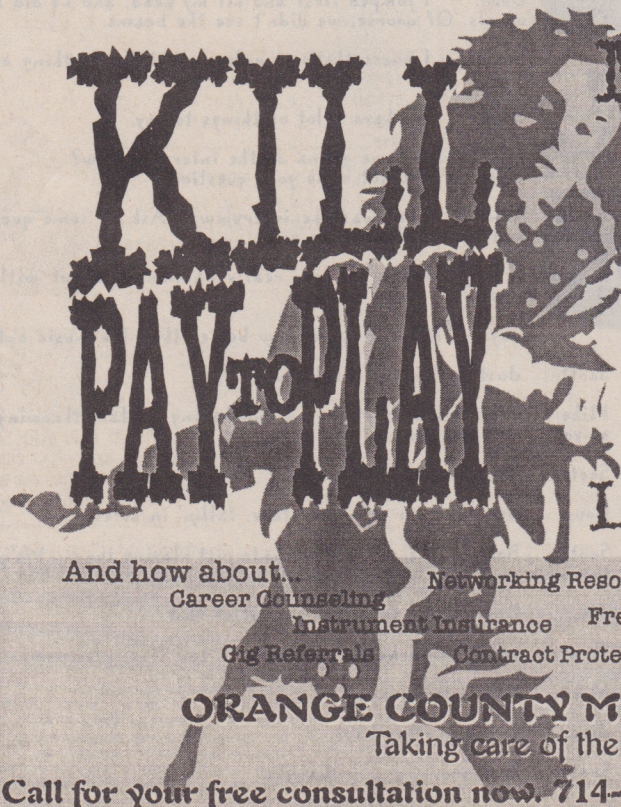

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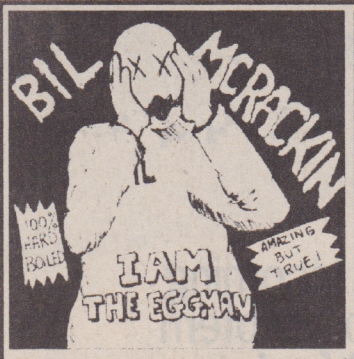

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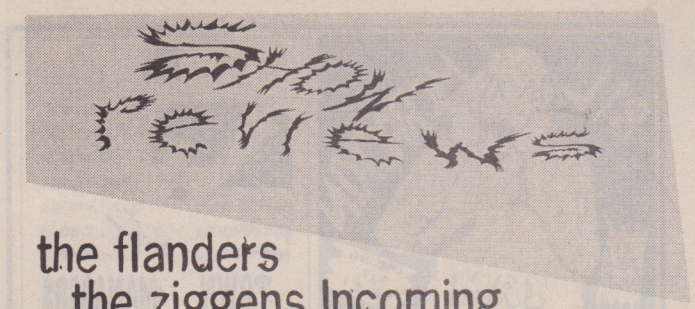

the flanders the ziggens Incoming negro problem @ koo's

The quaint, yet vivacious club known as Koo's Art Cafe was host to an extraordinary evening of talent on Friday, May 23rd. Considering the handful of people who showed up, each band's performance was quite distinctive and engaging.

The first band to set up were Santa Margarita's own The Flanders. Their Green Day-ish appearance was done away with when these three vigorous guys, displaying raw feelings through their guitars began to play.

The crowd response was excellent. Everyone appeared to enjoy the sounds of the Sonic Youth inspired band who displayed much energy and depth, considering they've only been together for six-months.

Next up was Incoming. Uniquely flavored, the four diverted the crowd through a 14 song set. The sound that radiated out of their amp was one to be remembered. Although, I was told that they too, were from Orange County, their sound could cause one to think differently. They catch your interest, not only because the four seemed to be having a great time , but because their style and their distinct sound surged through them naturally.

The next band was Negro Problem . This band was graced with a trumpet player and an accordion player. The lead singers intrepid vocals worked in unison with the young lady who accompanied him on the accordion. Granted, the members of this band may have been a little older than the two previous, their 30 minute set was one to be watched and relished!

The Ziggens set up close to midnight. These guys rock! They get better everytime I see them. They played for about an hour for what appeared to be mainly close friends and acquaintances. It was the show to see for veteran fans of the band. A few highlights included " That night in Georgia", during which Jon and Dickey stepped outside, while still plugged in and playing to smoke a couple cigarettes, and asked for audience participation during the ever popular " Something about a waitress." The set ended somewhat unexpectedly, though, when Dickey took off for the little boys room! Burt was nice enough to sell some merchandise, even before he had his own equipment packed up. The guys even posed gleefully on a couch for some pictures afterwards.

-Reena

CLUTTER, THE MAC SWANKY TRIO AND THE DEVICS. MAY 15TH @ THE MARTINI LOUNGE.

Made it to the show just in time watch the bass player for Clutter changing into a dress on the sidewalk. That was really traumatic. Whatever happened to dressing rooms man? Anyway we walked into an empty as fuck club and sat down for some sorely needed drinks. Clutter came on and lived up to their name. Pretty sloppy set and uninspired songs although they did have a couple tunes to take note of. The drummers set was slipping all over the stage so the bass player had to brace it with his knee during the whole set. I have one piece of advice for this band. Get a fucking practice room and stop listening to Weezer damn it! Next up was the Devics Who played one hell of a good set. Although this kind of music would usually be a little to slow for my tastes, the raw talent of the band members themselves brings them a step up above the rest. They had an almost cabaret kind of feel about them and there are many musical influences evident in their style. I would compare them to a cross between Portishead and the Geraldine Fibbers with someone like Souxise or Sinead on vocals. This is the perfect background music for a heroin overdose. I've listened to the C.D. more than a few times since I saw them and it gets better every time. Play it for your girlfriend when you wanna' pretend like you have feelings. She'll be putty in your hands! I interviewed them outside the club as a police helicopter circled over head for the entire conversation, so it was a real bitch trying to transcribe it from the tape. But here's most of what they said.

-Jason Cole

The Toy Dolls

May 17 at the Glass House in Pomona

After years of hearing my father rave about them and play their records repeatedly, I did something that most people my age wouldn't do. I took my Daddy-O to see the Toy Dolls.

When we first arrived the line that stretched around the block looked like punk dress-up day at my high school. As far as the eye could see there were cheesy mohawks and spikes on just about everything, interrupted only by the occasional Aquabat fans and former 80's punks turned responsible adults. We all filed into the venue and anxiously awaited the festivities to begin.

Assorted Jellybeans was the first on the stage. They played a fast set and were gone just as the crowd was starting to react to the three drunk guys who were violently trying to start a pit. The set was more than disappointing. All of their songs sounded even more repetitive and boring due to the fact that they were hurried and the sound was too loud. "These guys aren't very good!" my dad shouted. My sentiments exactly.

Next up was the Aquabats, one of my personal favorites. I raved to my pop about how totally fabulous they are, and as usual they produced fire, smoke, and powdered dairy-product villains. But much to my dismay, they were also rushed, played louder than god, and played much too fast trying to keep up with the punk atmosphere. This proved to be too much for them and the set was pretty much a let down except for their impromptu version of the Toy Doll's "Fiery Jack" which got the crowd to sing along, briefly.

After standing for what seemed to be an hour, my father and I proceeded to the mezzanine to get a better view, and that's when the lights went down and the crowd went wild. Notes softly drifted from the sound system, and the soundtrack from The Sound of Music started playing. The crowd enthusiastically began to sing along, but soon found that boring and so began chanting "...Olga! Olga!..." The music slowly faded away and two of the three members of the band entered the stage with a grand reception from the audience. Then they proceeded to play, softly at first, until....BANG! Olga jumped out of a toybox on the side of the stage and the music slammed on us like a wall of water, throwing everybody into a frenzy.

With seemingly non-stop energy they played hard and fast. The crowd was like one entity moving as a group to the music. And such music is hard to come by. Unlike a lot of modern "punk" bands, these guys really know how to play their instruments, and the voice of lead singer Olga strengthens their position as a band like no other. It's obvious why this guy became a punk rocker. With a voice like that and so much energy- it was the only respectful career option!

Overall the show was a huge success in my eyes, and all of the little inadequacies of the opening acts served to emphasize the good points of the Toy Dolls. As for my dad, he had a great time seeing a band he liked as a young one, and marveled "how many people my age get to do this?" Rock on Daddy-O!!

-Chelsea Johnson

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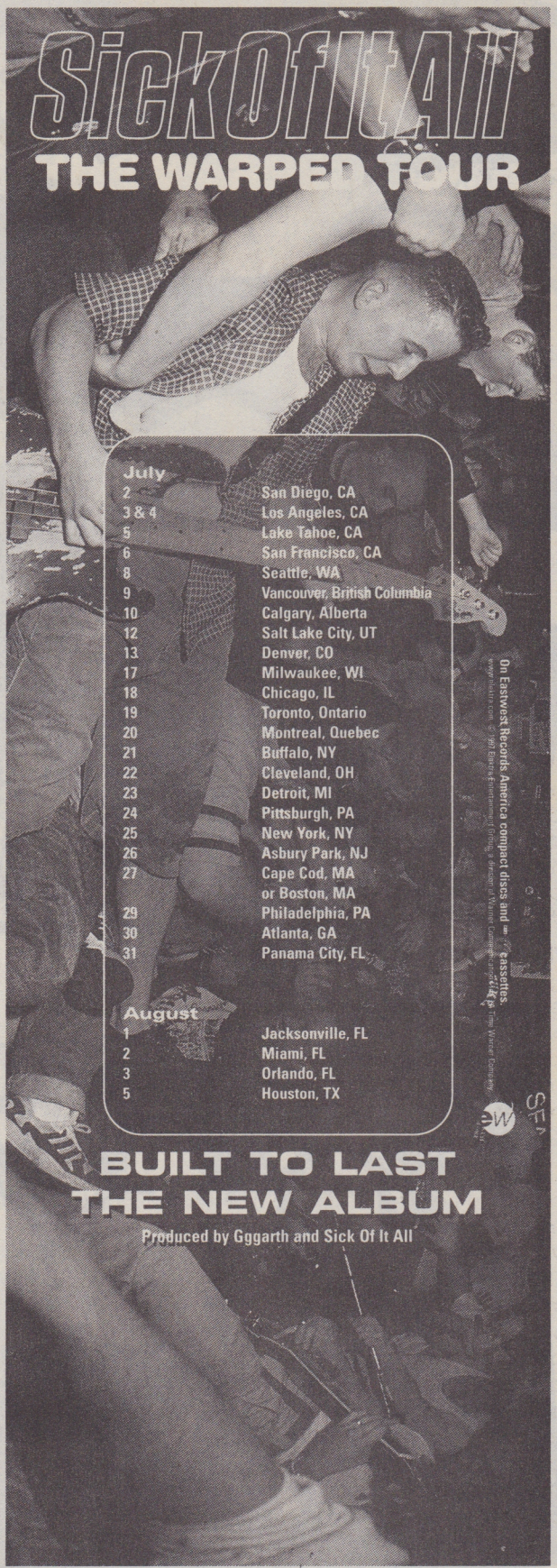
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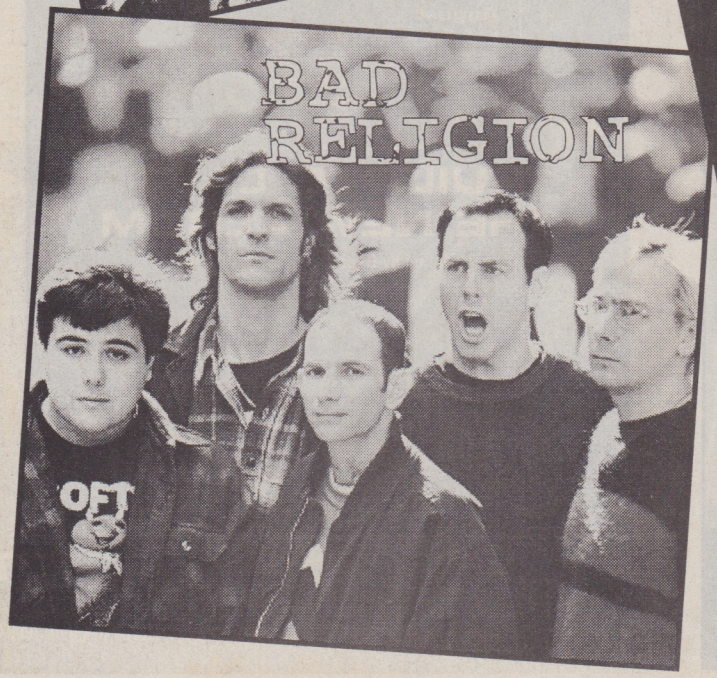
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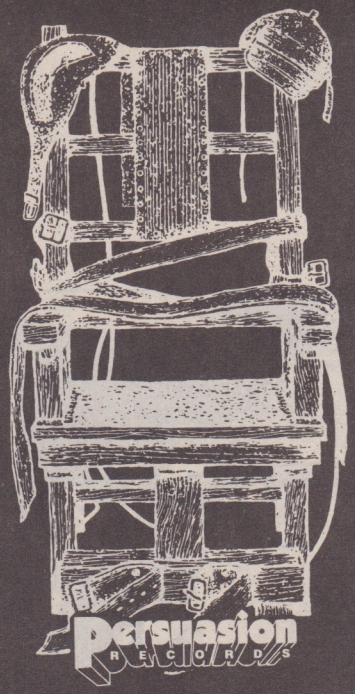

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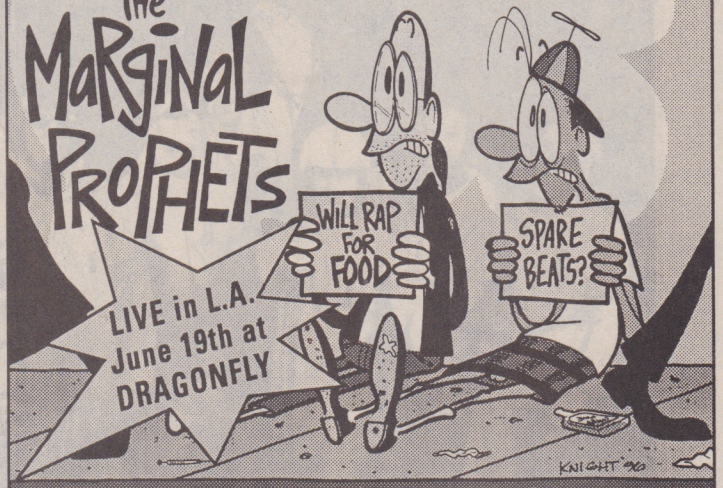

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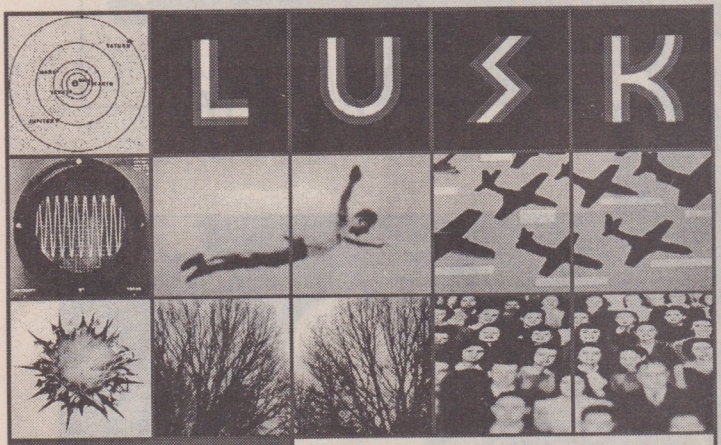

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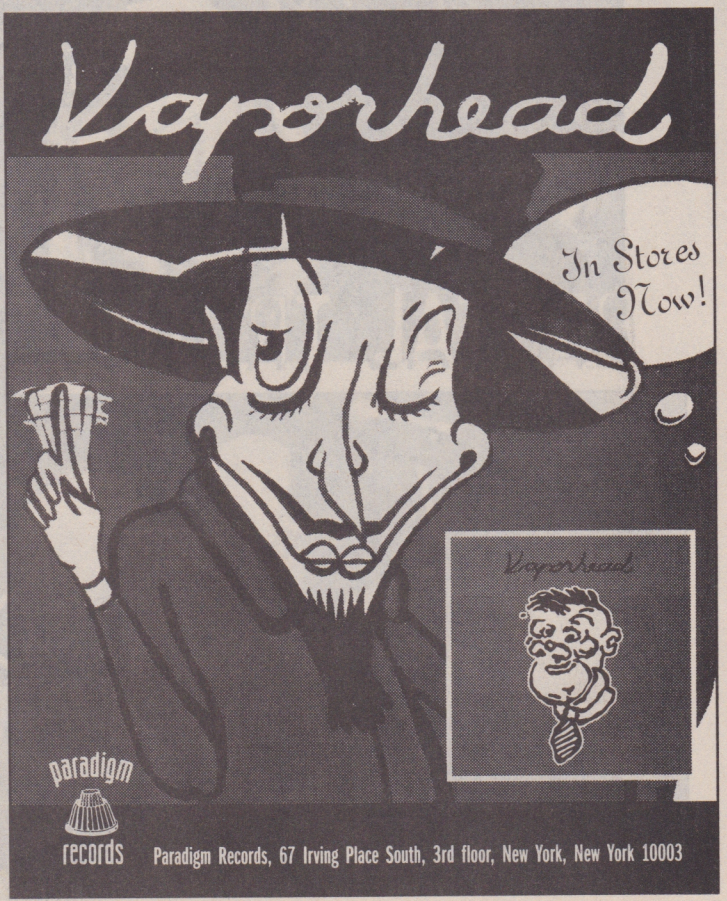

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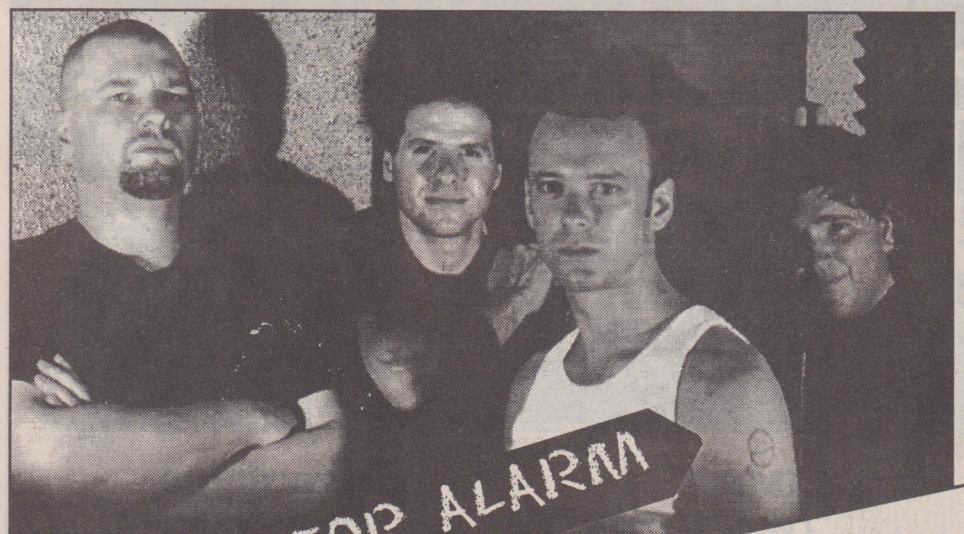

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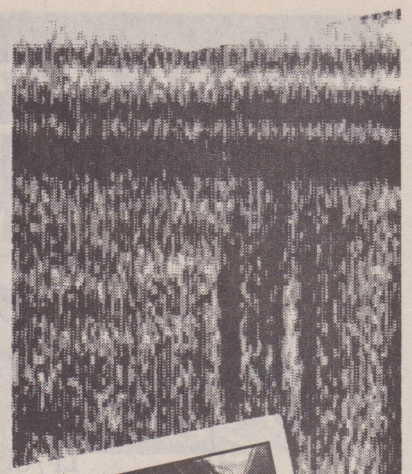

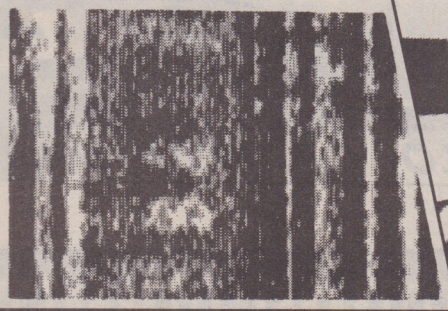

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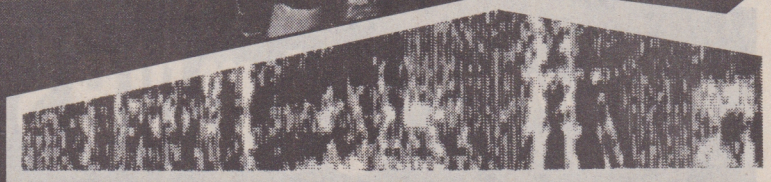

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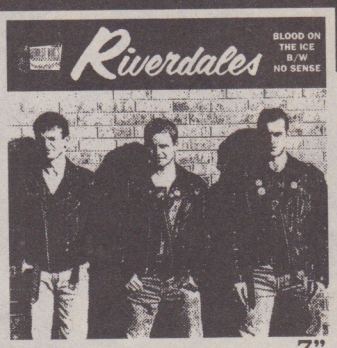

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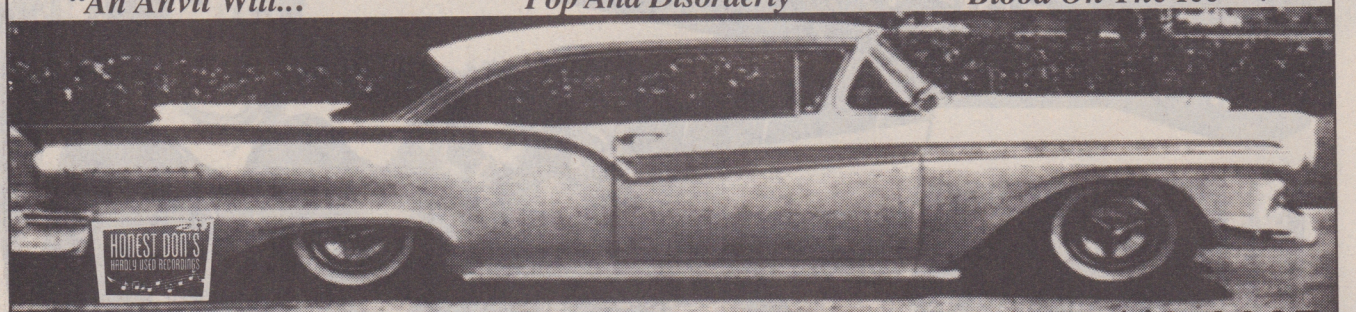

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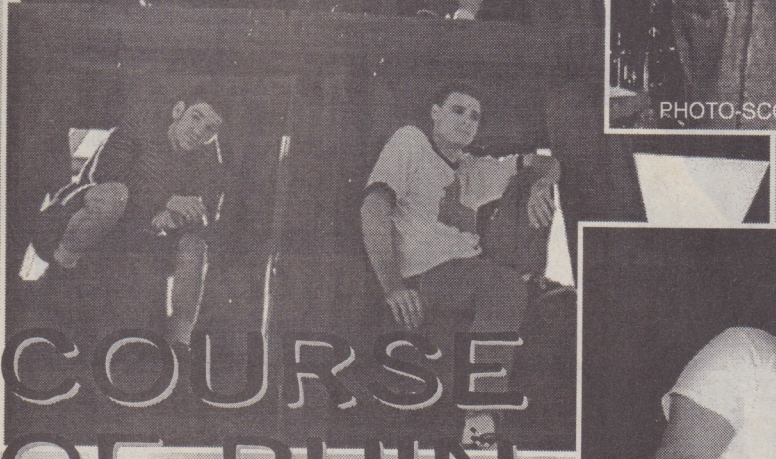

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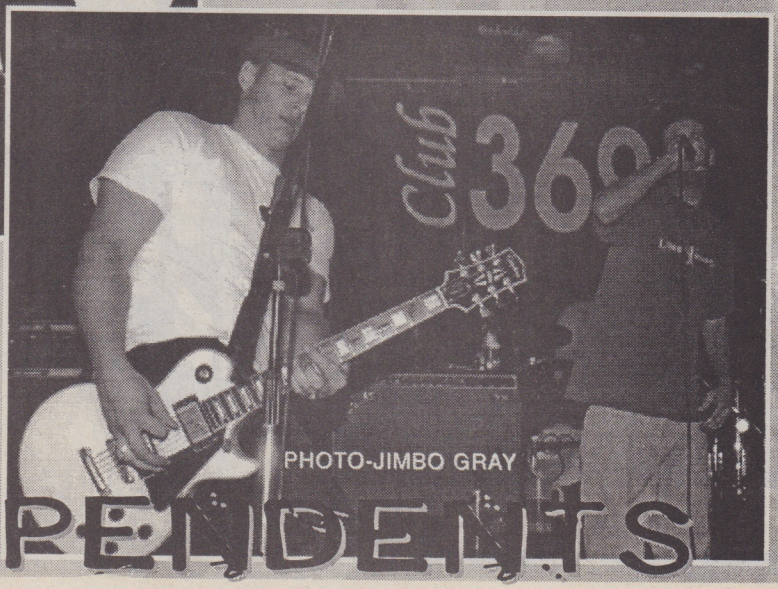

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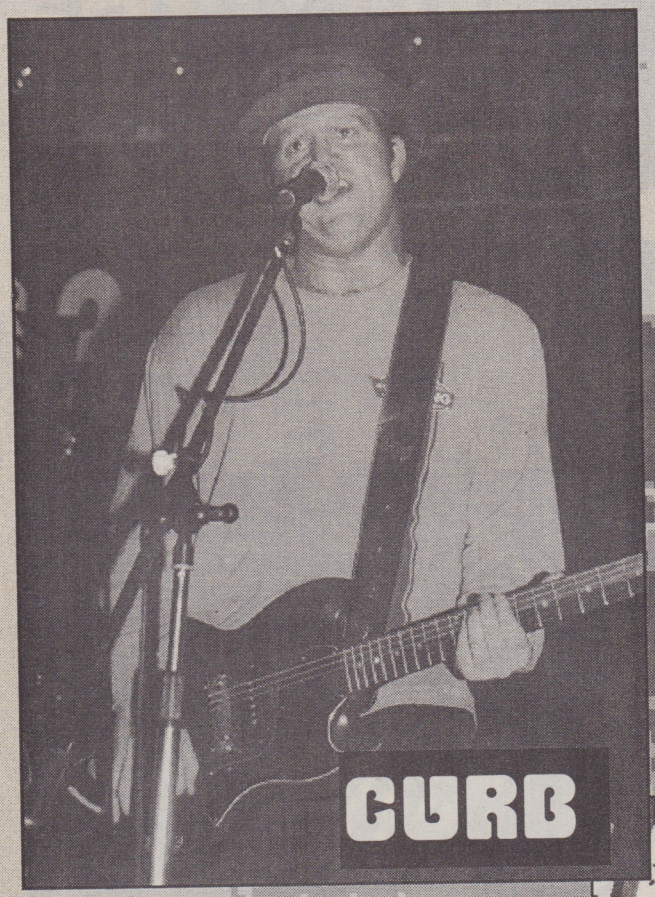

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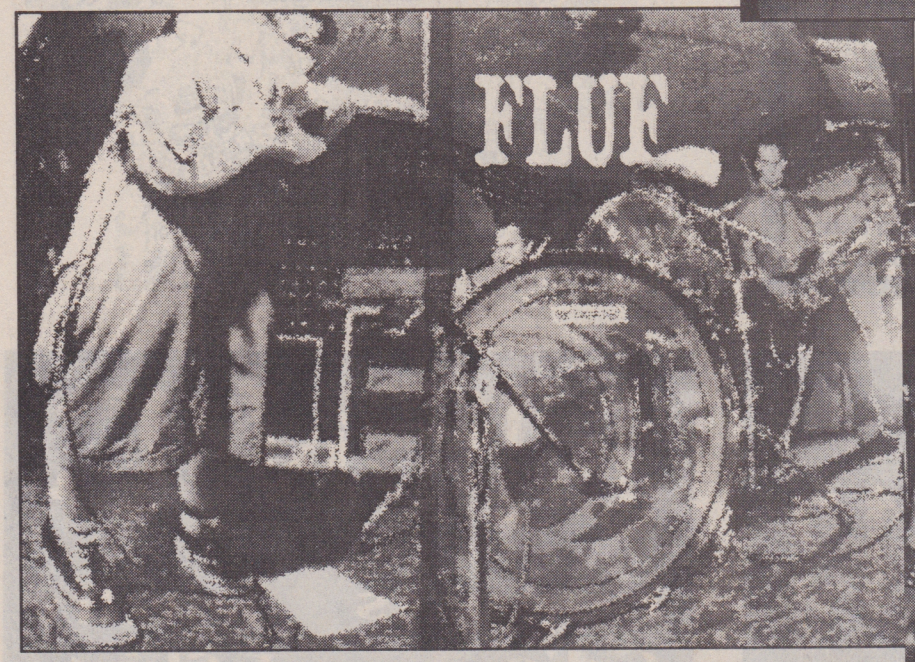
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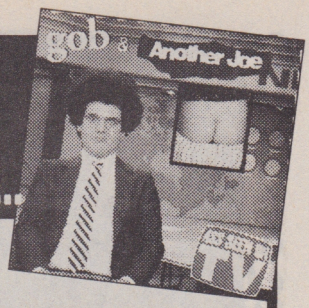

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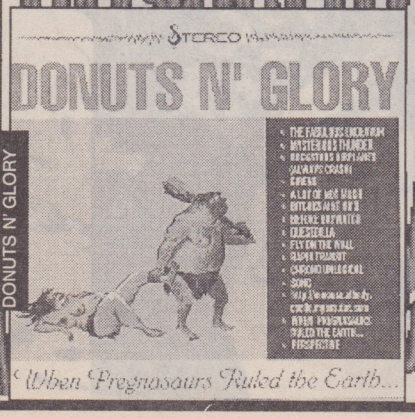

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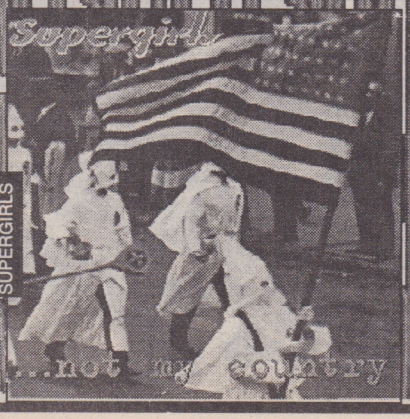

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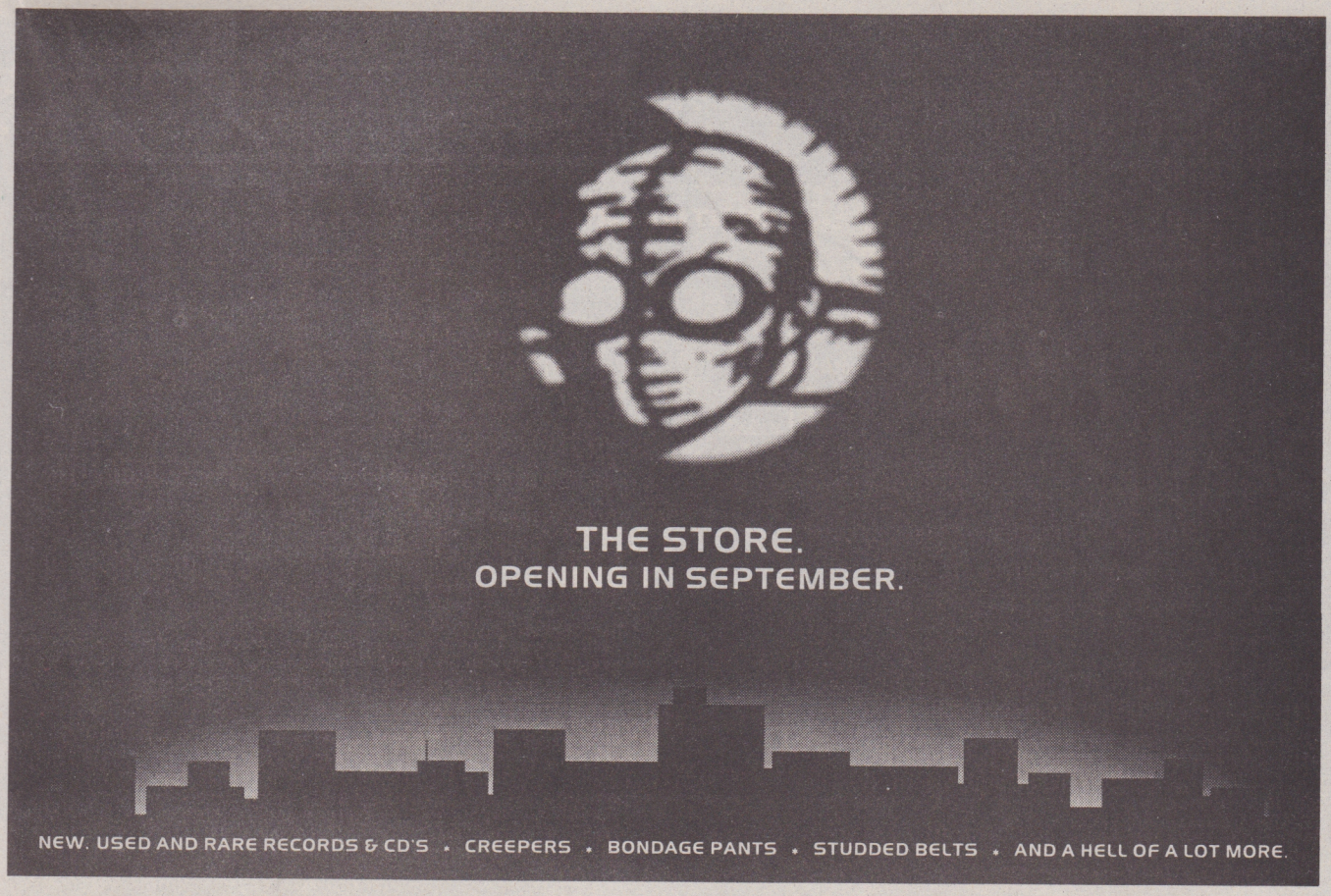

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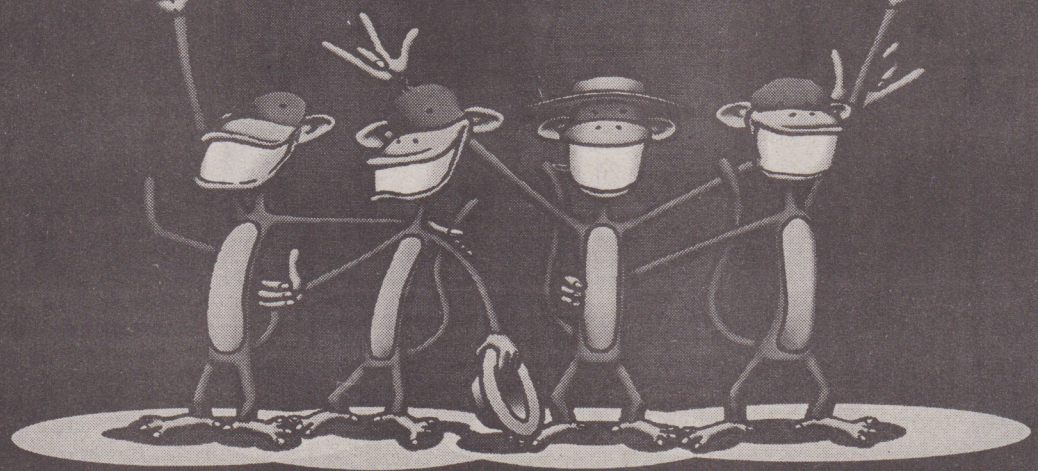

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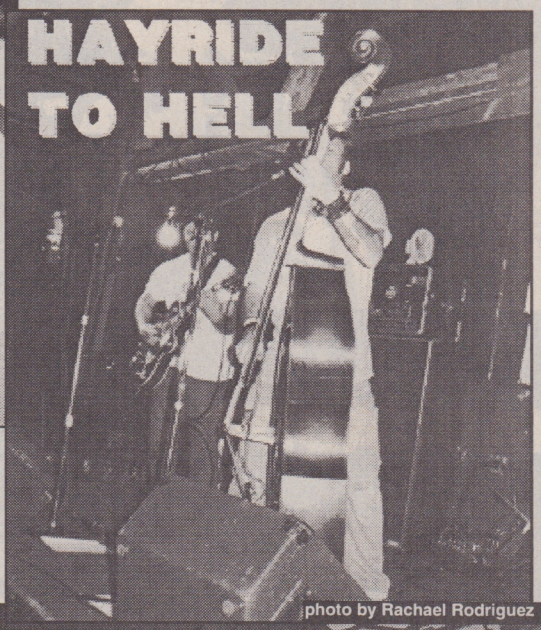

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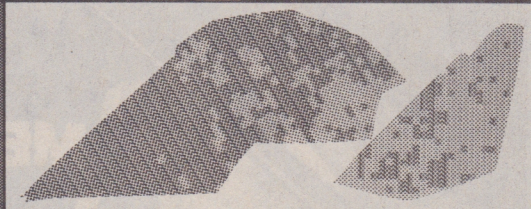

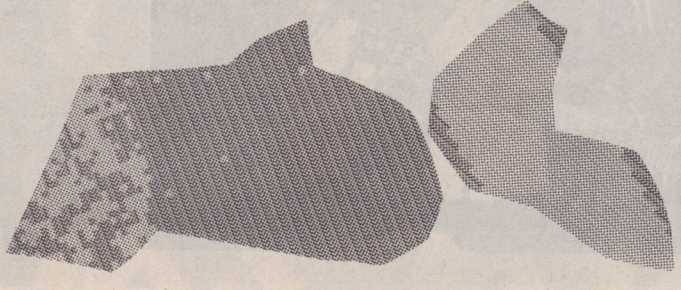

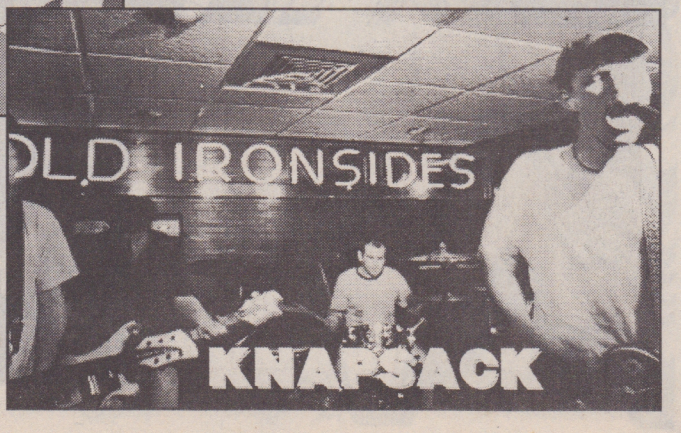

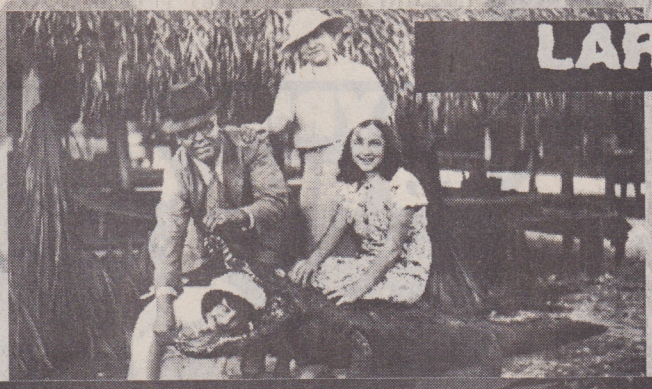

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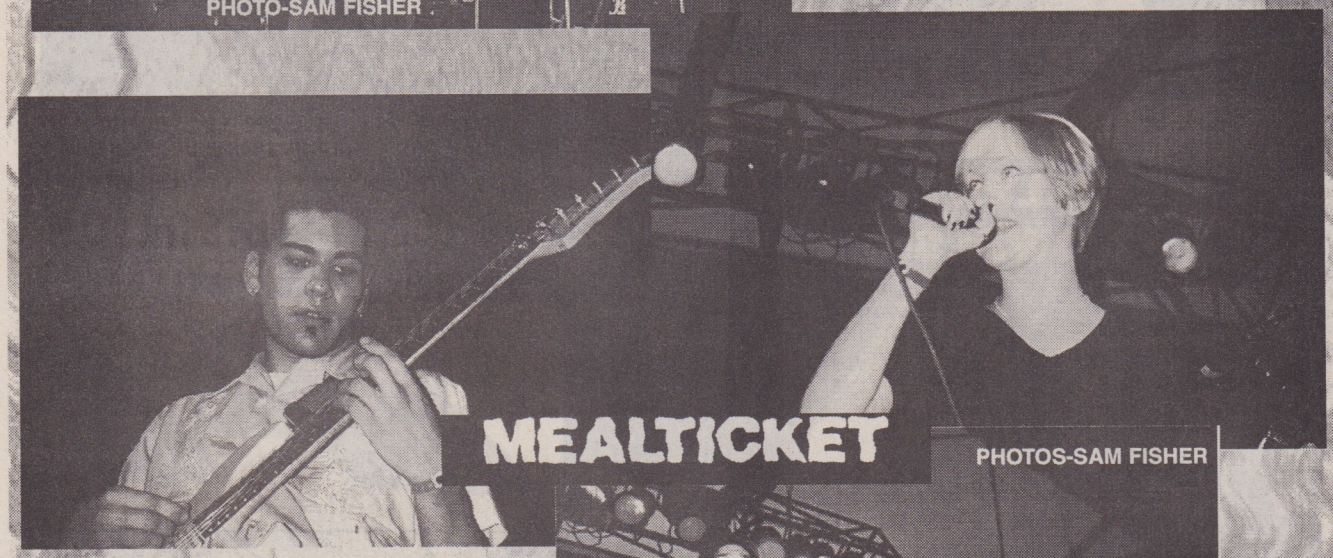

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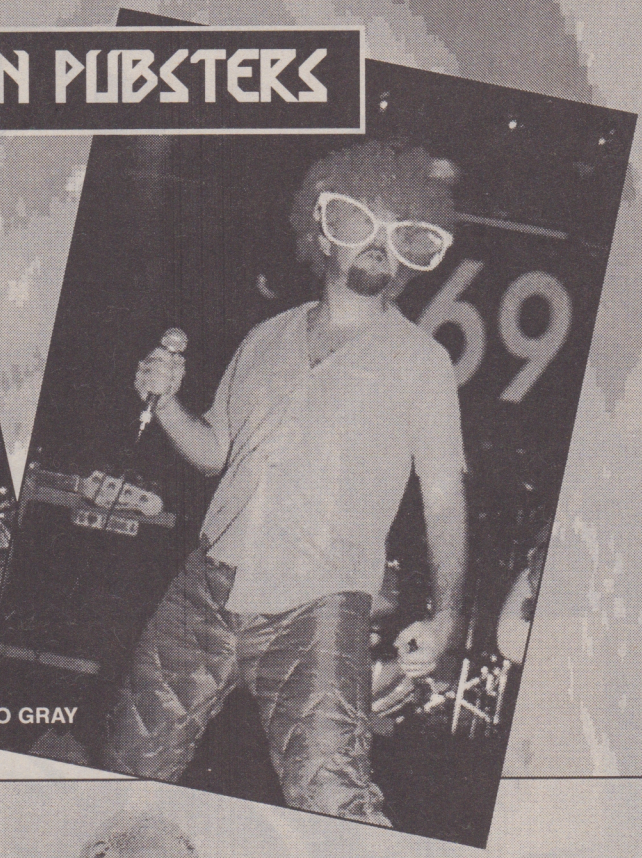

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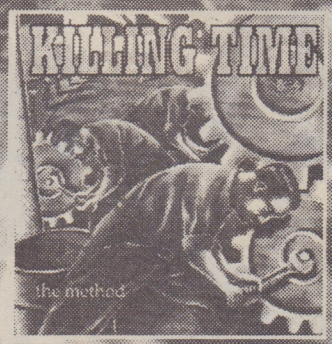

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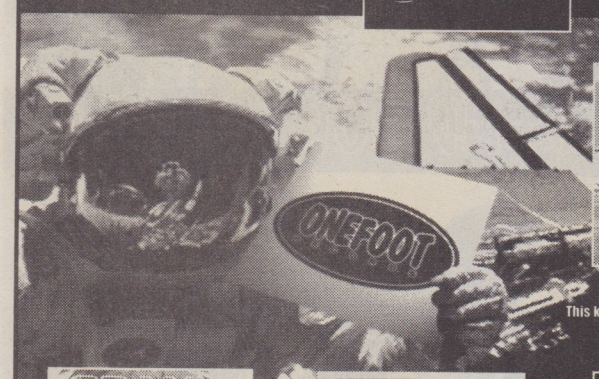

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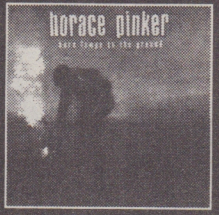

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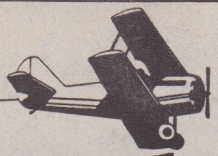

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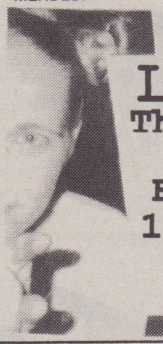
Eight new raw tracks plus five live cuts from such places as Brick by Brick (Sonic Youth's Youth Against Fascism played during the 1996 Republican Convention) , Jabberjaw (Fortunate Punk, Broken-1995) and a couple of rehearsal outtake bootlegs. Lucid Nation is so cool that- why the hell don't I know of them? Don't ask. The sleeve's thank you list reads like a underground scenester's whose who. And why not? The music is edgy, with nicely raw guitars, great haunting bass lines and the "I could give a shit" female vocals (when Ronnie Hogart isn't singing) which deliver lyrics that make me care. "Landmark" has that ultra cool/dark LA sound which put early Cali punk on the map, and with this effort shows that it is still valid today. I mean, after it's all said and done, what has really changed? "Stillness of Over" has a the feel of punk experience, the kind of punk that says it all without trying to do it all. It's got this naturally creepy feel, sinewy guitar leads with great chord changes, rumbling floor toms and a quick snare. Even the rehearsal outakes, "Angry Pelicans" is cool, recorded live from way back in 94. I like the poetic scrappiness of Lucid Nation, and it takes huevos (or ovaries) to put out a record like this. Makes ya kinda want to rethink some of those overwrought production values, which, could never really compensate for talent anyway. RECOMMENDED. . . .

-TORMENT



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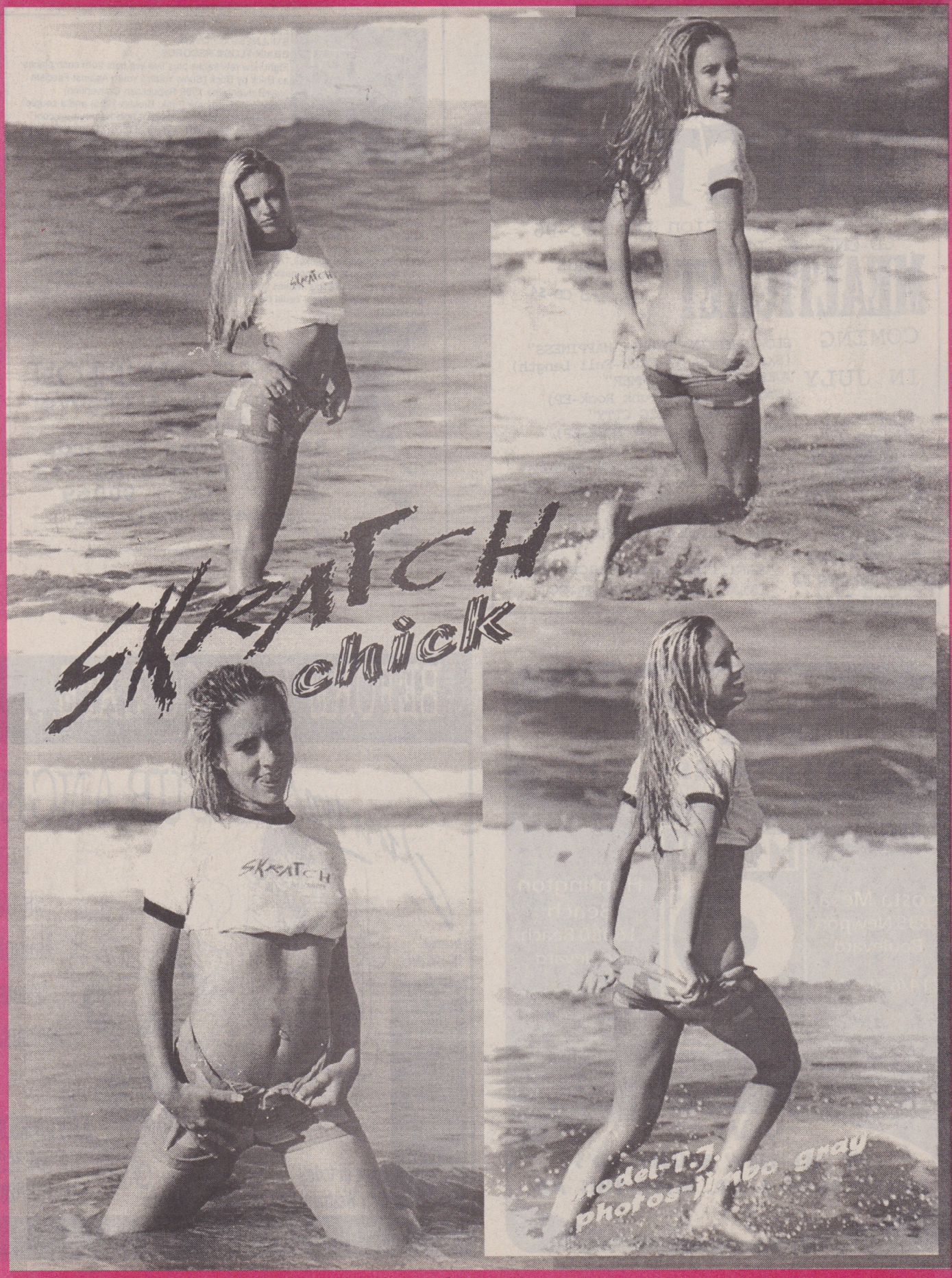
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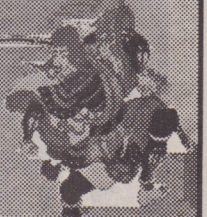

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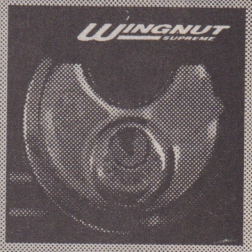

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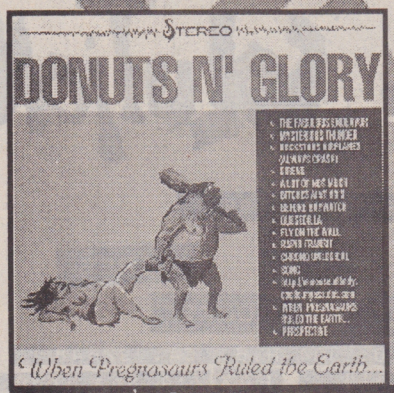

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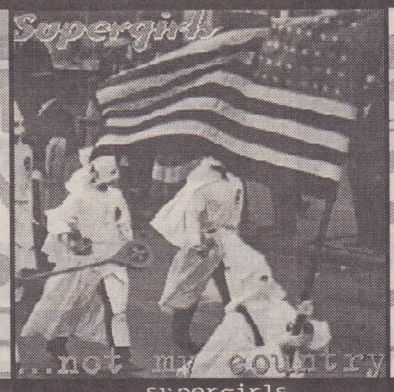

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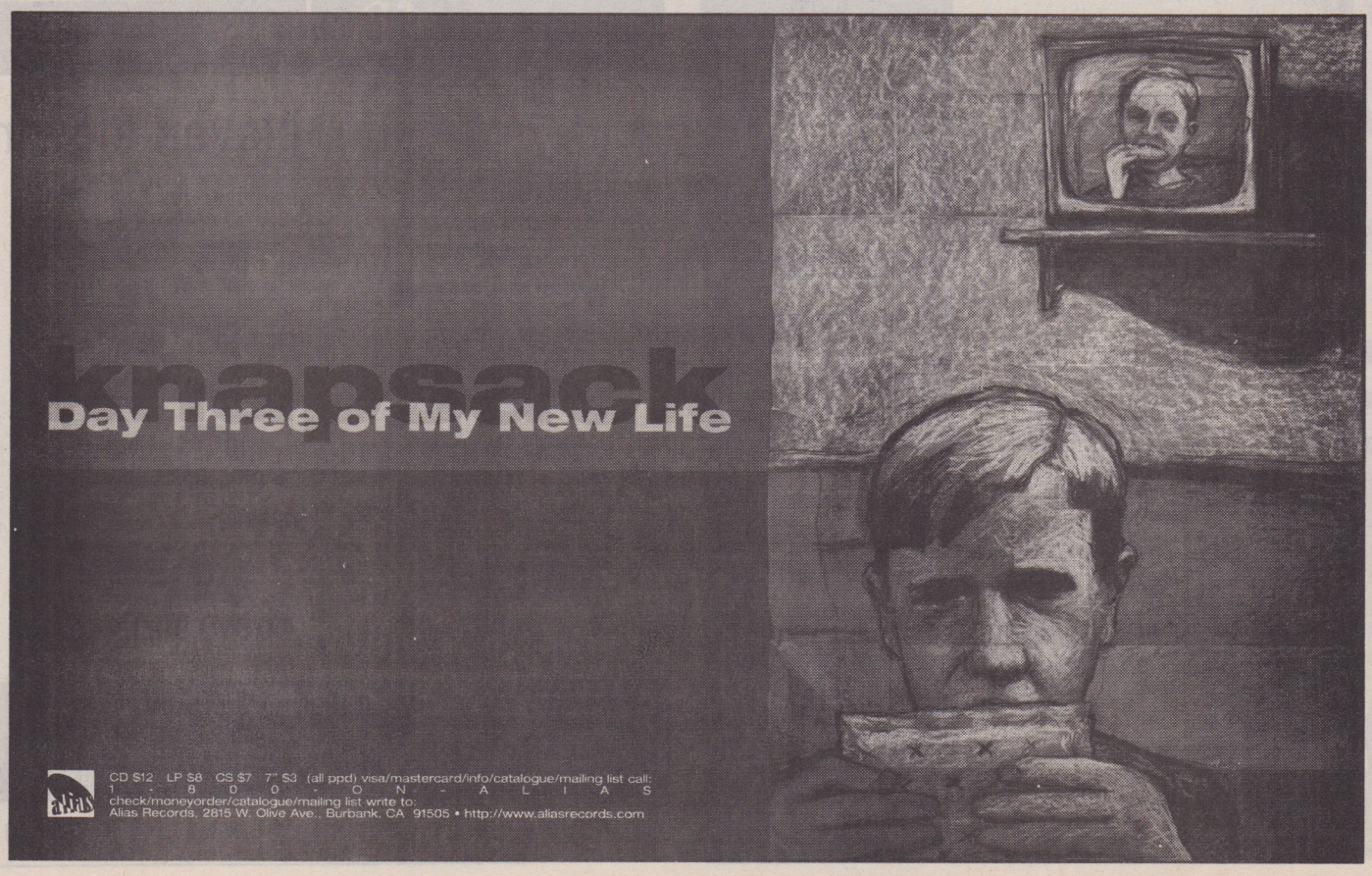

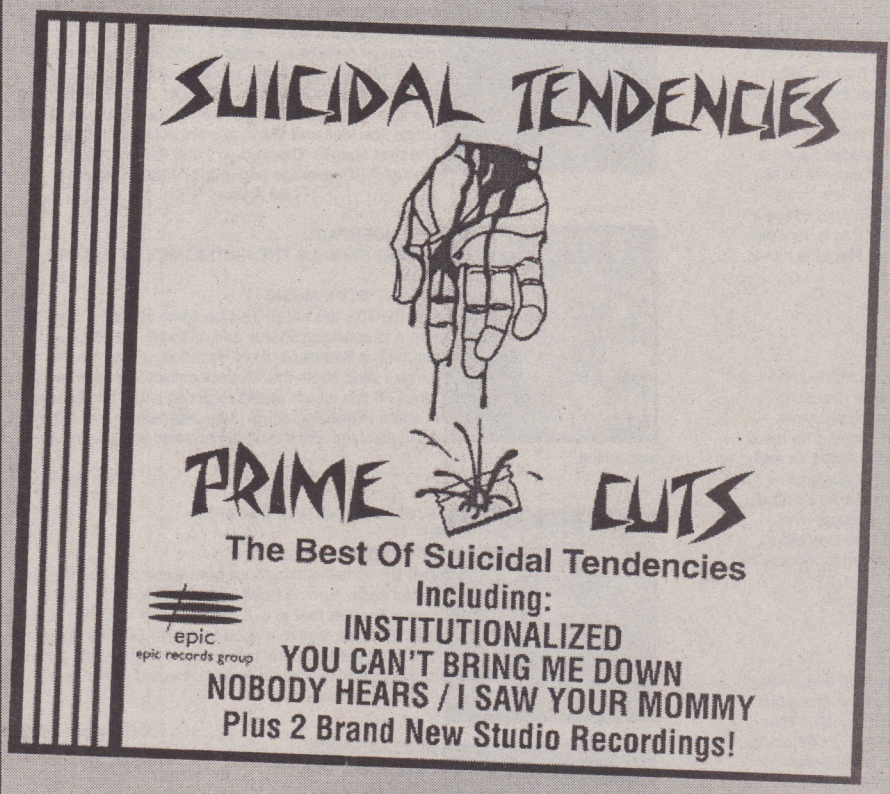

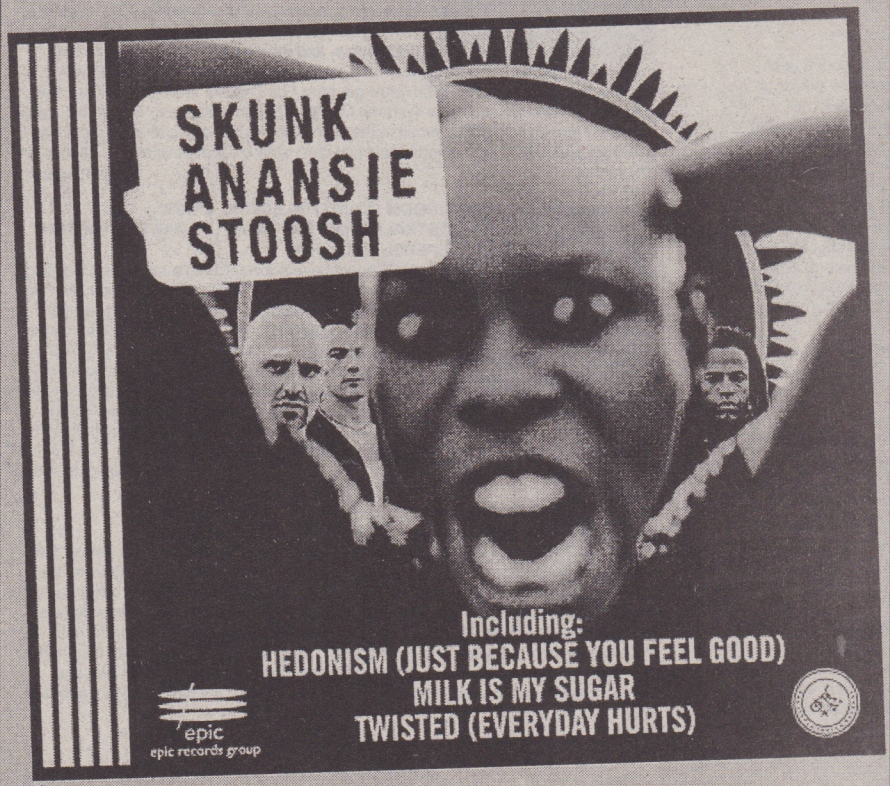

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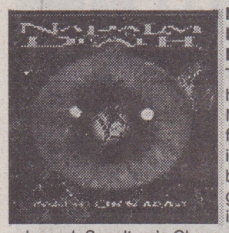
AUNTIE CHRIST
LIFE COULD BE A DREAM
LOOKOUT REC.

Punk rock supergroups have alot to live up to, especially when 2/3rds of your band is made up of members from X and another guy from some band called Rancid, (who?). Naturally with Exene on vocals (and guitar too!!) comparisons to X are inevitable, but there is something to the music that shows a raw element at work that was not previously in the aforementioned band. It does sound a bit like early X and is definitely rooted in early eighties punk (before hard-core reared its head) I've listened to this disc quite a few times and while I didn't dig it as much as I hoped I would, it still is a valid offering. Exene's vocals are in top form and she has a almost beatnik style to her lyrics that is very picturesque. Old X fans who are curious should not be disappointed, but I feel the bands next disc will be much better as they are still getting their sound down.

-Maynard Krebs



NAPALM DEATH
INSIDE THE TORN APART
EARACHE RECORDS

The kings of death metal/gringcore have returned and have developed a slightly different musical direction. Napalm Death have slowed down a bit and put more focus into the musicianship rather than speed. The result is Napalm's best album to date. The lyrics might as well be sung in tongues because not a word of it is distinguishable, but dismissing that the music shows as much, if not more talent than the best grindcore album ever released, Sepultura's Chaos A.D. If you just can't wait for the new Green Day album than I strongly suggest you pass this album that actually does something in the way of originality.

-Jason Chittenden

THE GREAT BRAIN
ALGORITHM
THROWRUG RECORDS

There is a distinctive sound that comes from deep within Chicago's innards, with its trippy driving bass line guitar bands and their dynamic tension building vocals. The guitars are are cacophanous and laden with multitracked feedback. The best known of the pack is the Jesus Lizard, and the Great Brain follows in their footsteps quite well. "Crack Blues" has a magnetic bending riff that will have you swaying like a flag on the shore of Lake Michigan. "Algorithm" was recorded separately by the talented Andy Gerber and Chuck Uchida. Throwrug Records. P.O. Box 579100. Chicago, IL 60657-9100

-David Turbow

DRAIN BRAMAGED
HAPPY DRUNX
KNOW RECORDS

Beer-slushing-obnoxious-raw punk rock from O.C. with lotsaballs. Johnnie Walker's snotty vocals are similar to those of Mark of Guttermouth's with plenty of force. "Nudie Bar," "Just a Waste," and "Fucker" are fast paced punk rock and a few favorites of mine performed live. With lyrics like "cute little college girls in short skirts, well they make me feel like a pervert, they make me want to go back to school" (College Sidewalks) and "She's got hairy pits, she's got saggy tits, she's got a pimple butt, she's proud to be a slut, that's why I love her" (My True Love) make you chuckle. Do not take Drain Bramaged too seriously. However, do not understimate their musical talent, it should not be overlooked. Check out the country covers "Happy Drunx," and "The Devil went Down To Georgia." Very good album. Goes down nice with a twelver too.

-Scott Presant

CRUMBOX
RESIDENT DOUBLE U
TIME BOMB RECORDINGS

I liked this CD; at its best, it reminded me of early British punk, particularly on "You Bought Sound." Other good songs are "Grief and Sorrow" and "Larry Tate". My only quibble -- the songs sound quite similar to one another. Still, it's worth a listen.

-Empty

REBEL REBEL
LIFESTYLES OF THE SICK AND FAMOUS
FTW/MKULTRA RECORDS

Glam meets punk on this self-produced CD, which comments on how sick and crazy society is. Heck, everyone's telling us that these days. Not for the musically sophisticated -- it's real FTW stuff all the way round. Best if you're 15 and under.

-Empty

CRANK
PICKING UP THE PIECES
ONE FOOT RECORDS

Perhaps layered vocal harmonies are the most common element in punk music today- or should I say, pop-punk? That's where Crank loses some credibility as well as a large chunk of NOFXabees out there. The overall sound is a little fat, I mean flat- well both. The good news is the songs flow well and the vocals are actually pretty good. The best song is "Cracked up" and the worst is "Insanity" It's average pop- punk- whad'ya expect?

- Lisa Apista

JETENDERPAUL
TRYING SIGNALS THE HISTRIONICS OF SUGGESTION
VELVET BLUE MUSIC

Hey the 70's are back! This be some strange schtuff with add sounding chords and off beats. At times you can hear a little trace of old Sebadoh- one of the few things I liked about this 25 track collection of garbled up tunes. If this album wasn't recorded under the influence of some interesting drugs I fear Jetenderpaul. Kill the drum machine and the off-tempos and you may have something.

- Mike Tendow

TURNING POINT/NO ESCAPE
EP
TEMPERANCE RECORDS

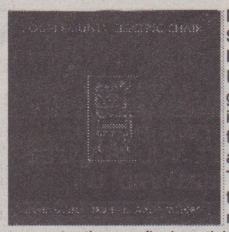
This EP contains four songs from these two bands, two songs each. Turning Point has a Face to Face meets Gorilla Biscuits feel to it. A definite metal influence is evident. But hey, they're a good band. No Escape has more of a grind/hardcore feel to them. Loud vocals and a hard musical backing, I could get into. I would like to hear more from these guys.

-Brandon Lucero

BLUE MEANIES
FULL THROTTLE
THICK RECORDS

At first glance of the bio photo (each and every band member is sporting goggles and helmets), one may confuse the Meanies as a silly, gimmick band. Not the case baby. This is a punk/ska band with a tinge of swing ready to take the world in its little palms and shake it vigorously into a manic state. The seven-piece throws in a trumpet, a saxaphone, a synthesizer, an organ, a banjo, a megaphone, and drums creating a musical circus. Imagine the feeling of a rollercoaster or a ferris wheel. Close your eyes stupid. Are you imagining it? That's the rush you'll get from Full Throttle. More unique than than the ear thermometer and more live than Memorex. As they suggest-"Smash the magnavox" or smash something because the Blue Meanies are going to burst outta your speakers and knock you on your ass. I just can't shut up about this album. Grab it you silly rabbits.

-Scott Presant



DOOM COUNTY ELECTRIC CHAIR
STEALING DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY
PERSUASION REC.

Doom County have accomplished a rare feat, compiling genres and making them work together in a manner that is as natural as breathing. Using pop-rock music and fusing it with a punk energy and bite, has helped create a disc that sounds like a cross between early Cheap Trick and The Stooges if they both watched too much television and were spewing out the venom through their music. The band rocks and does it well, never getting too pretentious or flashy, sticking to what they do best which is delivering straight ahead rock and roll. A welcome surprise in this age of copycat bands.

-Maynard Krebs

PAVEMENT
BRIGHTEN THE CORNERS
MATADOR RECORDS

"Pigs they tend to wiggle when they walk, the infrastructure rots and the owners hate the jocks with their agents and their dates", muses Steve Malkmus on "Stereo", the opening track from "Brighten the Corners". This is unquestionably their best release since "Slanted and Enchanted" because it is a cohesive and brilliantly recorded slab of noisy poetry. I loved "Olde to Begin With (Yawn)" which reaffirmed for me why Pavement is one of my top 5 favorite bands. They especially shine when they stick to the expressive melodic hooks, and maintain their terse tongue-in-cheek sense of humor, instead of digressing into extended jams. I give it my highest recommendation.

-David Turbow

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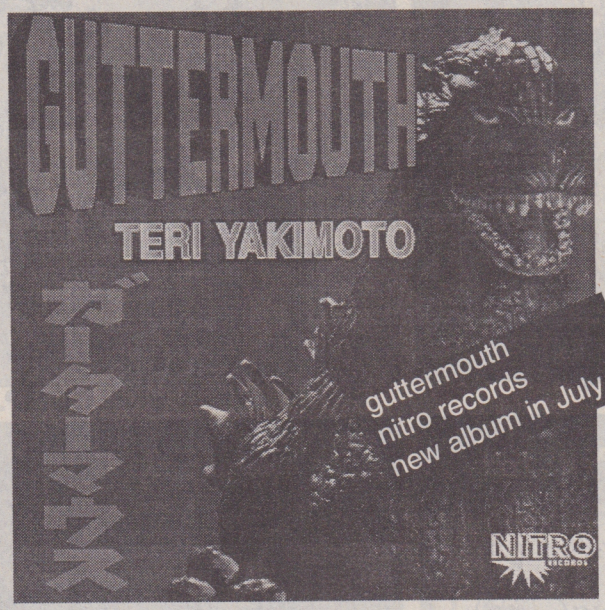

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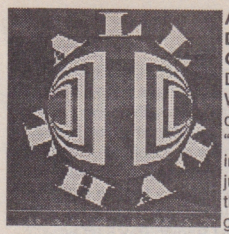


ALL THAT
DATZ PHAT
GROOVE ENTERTAINMENT
Do not call All That a band, they are more like an ensemble. With 10 members the funk, soul, and swing flows like a quaint stream. Besides the hendrix type influenced "Mabbabubba", All That are a professional package reminding me of a great house band playing that cool nearby java junkie cafe. Any local ska band or musician should check these guys out. I assure you they're impressive and excel in great song craftsmanship.

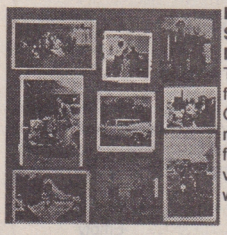
- Scott Presant

MESS
PRETTY UGLY
LAST BEAT RECORDS
I found this band in San Diego while I was distributing Skratch. They were playing this bar that I can't quite think of the name, sorry Austin, he books bands there 760-754-9069. The Mess are from Dallas, Texas, they play hard punk rock with a sense of melody, Queers meets Screeching Weasel. Saw them again a few day's later at Linda's Doll Hut. Can't wait till the next fix, highly recommended.

-Dan Gruia

SHOW & TELL
A STORMY REMEMBRANCE OF TV THEME SONGS
WHICH! RECORDS
Whichever TV shows are your favorite, I'm sure you'll find some in this comp. Plus there done up by some of the badest and hardest working bands around. Mission: Impossible by The Meatmen, Cops by H2O, Laverne and Shirley by No Use For A Name, Good Times by The Bollweevils, Gilligan's Island by Manic Hispanic, and my favorite WKRP In Cincinnati by Weston. But that's not all man, this cd has 35 trax, now that's the bomb. Definitely one of my favorite cd's of 97'.

-Dan Gruia



ELEVEN ELEVEN
S/T
DOGHOUSE RECORDS
Take a progressive-rock type riff with harmonics and milk it for about four or five minutes and build it up to nothingness. Okay, maybe there's some mellow lyrics, but if I wanted to nap I'd take some Nyquil. Oh, the music gets a little harder for a few seconds. Whoppee! Fast-forwarding a cd can be very annoying especially when there isn't anything musically worthy. Zzzzzzzzzzzzz.....

-Lisa Apista

VARIOUS ARTISTS
CRASH COURSE FOR THE RAVERS: A TRIBUTE TO THE SONGS OF DAVID BOWIE
UNDERCOVER RECORDS
I love David Bowie. Unfortunately, this alternative tribute to his music doesn't do it justice, with the exception of Fernando's cover of "Jean Genie." The slowed-down tempos rob the songs of their energy, and if there's one thing that Bowie did, it was to completely reenergize the rock scene in the '70s, as well as making you want to get up and shake your butt. I'd recommend spending your hard earned $$$ on the original Bowie.

-empty

GRIEVING EUCALYPTUS
JUST PLAIN ROCK 'N' ROLL
EUCALYPTUSMUSIC
Unadorned three chord rock with very simple lyrics that seem to be inspired by the whacky wit of the Vandals. Only recommended if you think that including the word "shit" in a song makes it amusing.

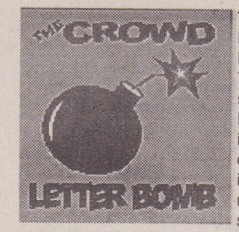
-empty

FIVE-EIGHT
GASOLINA!
VELVEL RECORDS
Straight-ahead power pop from Athens, Georgia. Listenable, reasonably enjoyable, but without much to distinguish it in a very heavily populated genre of music.

-empty

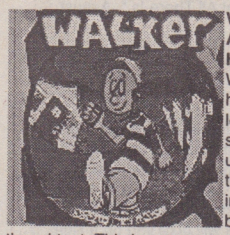
PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES
TEST TUBE TRASH C.D.
DR. STRANGE REC.
A near perfect collection of this great U.K. punk band. In their early days these boys were one of the best humor laden bands of the eighties (sorta like Guttermouth). But as time wore on the band degenerated into rock lameness and even their sense of humor couldn't save their music from the land of shit. Fortunatly this disc compiles a vast collection of their early days and some of their finest moments. Great punk sing-a-longs like "Up Your Bum" , "Elvis is Dead", and one of the best punk songs ever written "Banned from the Pubs" will have you screaming along and walking down memory lane. The c.d. could have done just fine without a couple of the later period songs on it, but don't let them detract you from picking this up. The Dr. has what you need.

-Maynard Krebs



THE CROWD
LETTER BOMB C.D.
FLIPSIDE REC.
The Crowd are the founding fathers of the beach punk sound that was later continued by The Adolescents, Decendents,and too many other bands not worth mentioning. On this their third l.p. in their almost 18 year career they deliver a great 14 track offering that shows the kiddies how it's done. Christ, it's all here, the great raw sound, infectious melodies, and Jim Dekkers trademark vocals sounding strong as ever. These guys are getting up there in the age department and show no sign of getting wimpy at all. In "Run for the Money" the band ranks on all the dishonest bands who have jumped on the punk bandwagon and "Anything" is a classic example of The Crowd's ability to write great melodies. Any of you old school types should definitely pick this up, and to all you new kids should get this as well instead of wasting your cash on the latest piece of shit from some lame ass Stink 182 cover band. Classic old school punk at its finest.

-Maynard Krebs



WALKER
ACTUALLY BEING LONELY
HARMLESS RECORDS
Walker seems to sound like a load of bands that I've have heard before, but I can't put my finger on who, but regardless thing is that they still have an above average pop-punk sound. They actually know how to play their intstruments, unlike many of today's sell-out punkers. Walker features thought-out guitar playing and the kind of mellow drum playing that doesn't sound generic is but close. The vocals sung by Kenny can actually be understood, and are somewhat thoughtout. This is not nessecarilly a superior pop-punk band, but nonetheless an enjoyable one.

-Devon Chittenden

MILLINCOLIN
FOR MONKEES C.D.
EPITAPH REC.
Once again the Epitaph empire expels another pop-laden speed rock disc on the unsuspecting masses via Sweden. Millincolin are shown delivering more of what you would expect, basic skate-punk with heavy emphasis on melody. And while the band may not win any awards for originality, they certainly have a knack for writing memorable tunes that stick in your head, which is more than I can say about most bands from their genre. More often then not, I found myself tapping my foot along to the tunage and only cringed when they went into the much over-used ska riffing on one song. Surprisingly good at what they do, Millincolin have put out a disc that deserves a listen from any fans of the tired pop-punk sound, and gives it a good kick that it so deserves.

-Maynard Krebs

LARD
PURE CHEWING SATISFACTION C.D.
ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES
Long overdue, Lard have returned to kick our asses into submission and tell us what a bunch of idiots we all are. The brainchild of Jello Biafra and Ministry have unleashed another monster that eats all in its wake leaving nothing but waste behind. Fueled by a wall of guitar sound cranking out chunky rhythms, with Jellos' always fabulous lyrical wit playing sidekick. The only thing wrong with disc is that there is only eight songs on it, I want more dammit!!! Is it better than the "Reid" c.d.? You bet your sorry ass it is. More metal than metal, more punk than punk. Viva la Lard!

-Maynard Krebs

MAD CADDIES
QUALITY SOFTCORE
HONEST DON'S
Santa Barbara's 8-piece at times emulate some fine bands like the Aquabats and Reel Big Fish. Mixing a little punk, ska, reggae, and rock can be sometimes a fun concoction, but here it seems to lose focus on what the caddies do best-authenic reggae ska. "Distress" and 'The Bell Tower" are a couple tantalizing tunes to pick from on the 13 song cd.

-Mike Tendow

JEFFRIES FAN CLUB
FEELIN SORRY....
VEGAS RECORDS
JFC is the perfect band for the basic 18 years and younger crowd into high school lyrics and a happy sound. I'm not saying that this is a bad cd; musically they're tight and clean sounding. The singer, Mike has a voice that will melt almost every budding high school girl's heart. The song "Another Love Story" had some humorous lyrics that made me kinda chuckle. The horns and piano (yes, piano) were great on "I Must Be Stupid." Once KROQ gets its hands on the song "12" I guarantee they will play the shit out of it. It's that catchy. But honestly guys, call me lactose intolerant, but I just can't swallow the song "Milk". It's just way too cutesy and pointless.

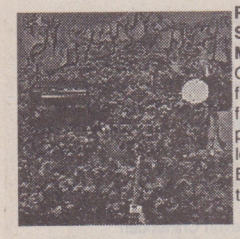
-Rachael Easton

TELSTAR PONIES
VOICES FROM THE NEW MUSIC
VELVEL RECORDS
If you feel like relaxing, this is an exceilent CD to throw on. It's filled with beautiful music that is soothing, moody and melanchoiy all at once. The closest I can come to describing it is an amalgam of new age and gothic musical influences with the lyrics leaning to the arty end of the spectrum. Some of the selections would be great as part of a movie soundtrack, because they are very evocative. Your call.

-empty

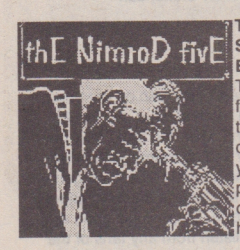
VARIOUS ARTISTS
BASQUIAT ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK
ISLAND
I rented Basquiat because I was curious about his short life and because I lived in New York City while he was painting. The film didn't do much to explain him or his art, besides indicating that they felt very alienated from most other people. However, the soundtrack is great. It's an electic collection of interesting, evocative songs, including these greats -- "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue" by Them, "Rise" by Tripping Daisy, "White Lines" by GrandMaster Flash and Melle Mel and "Tom Traubert's Blues" by Tom Waits. Skip PJ Harvey's lugubrious cover of "Is That All There Is." A must have.

-empty



PLASTISCENE
S/T
MOJO RECORDS
Colorful brit-pop with plenty of lyrical cliches like "You'll find me miles away", "Fly to the moon...", and that's just from the first song! As much as I wanted to hate this, the pop appeal got me by surprise- damn-it! One of my fellow writers David Turbow would love this- oh well. Beatles influenced, Plastiscene will take you on a little trip. Climb aboard if you dig.

- Lisa Apista

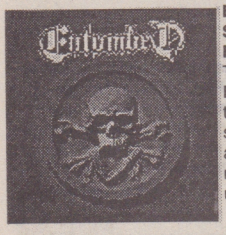


THE NIMROD FIVE
S/T
BLACK PLASTIC RECORDS
This foursome from good ole' Denver play loud-in-your-face punk rock, no melodic pop punk here. Fast and to the point, The Nimrod Five are kicking ass and asking questions later, if you can find them. Very good tunes if you're ever pissed off at the world, old lady, old car, piece of shit job, traffic, or the Lakers losing in the second round of the 1997 playoffs. No summer vacation for his rich ass.

-Dan Gruia

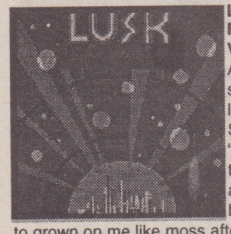
PSEUDO STAR
S/T
JUSTIFIED RECORDS
Old school Hispanic boys running around Pasadena listening to the Clash. Maybe they will be the next Cadillac Tramps, you never know ese. Time to steal a quote from the cd booklet- "we would like to thank PITO Pete Wilson and all his mindless, racist, dumbfuck followers for pissing us off so much, we had to write songs about it."

-Dan Gruia



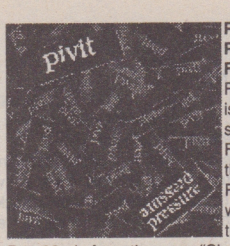
ENTOMBED
S/T
EARACHE RECORDS
This is a compilation of stuff while they were with Earache Records. If you never heard of Entombed, they're among the likes of Napalm Death/Carcass. Old school speed metal/death metal. Pretty brutal and aggressive. Growling vocals with hard and a often fast musical backing. If you are into that type of thing, pick it up.

-Brandon Lucero



LUSK
FREE MARS
VOLCANO/ZOO ENTERTAINMENT
An alternative pop band that incorporates a rather extensive blend of instrumentation into its repertoire: mellotron, cello, guitar, and of course, bass and drums. Sometimes Beatlesque (whatever that means) as in "Savvy Kangaroos" and sometimes leaning more towards the Flaming Lips ("Backworlds"), Lusk's mixture is clever and well-recorded using every production trick in the book. A little bit sedate for my taste at first, but it began to grown on me like moss after the third listen.

-David Turbow



PIVIT
PRESSURE
RED EYE RECORDS
Produced by Unwritten Law's singer, Scott Russo, Pivit is a talented Encinitas based pop/punk band. Their songs are fast and ultra-catchy, something like Face to Face. Although I had never heard their music before, there was this instantly familiar and wonderful element to Pivit. You have no choice but to sing along, even if you were to try your darndest not to. My favorite song on this one was "open book" with its emotional lyrics. P.O. Box 23e is from the song "She's Leavin", in which vocalist Raging Rex Fast proclaims, "I'm ready to run away with my right hand". They cover Dead Kennedy's "Let's Lynch the Landlord". (909)987-6914.

-David Turbow

CAPITALIST CASUALTIES
SELF TITLED C.D.
SLAP A HAM REC.
74 whirlwind musical assaults in 72 minutes and I'm still alive to tell the tale. These boys belt out the hyper-thrash with such precision and effect that Iim reminded of D.R.I. but faster, and better. This disc collects out of print singles and comp. tracks in a killer layout package which is well worth the cash you'll hand over for this. Not for wimps, this band hits repeatedly with such over the top music and great lyrics that challenge you to use your brain for a change. I normally get bored with bands of this genre quite quickly but the group manages to keep the delivery fresh and interesting so you will not get bored with this slab of pure rage.

-Maynard Krebs

THE CRIMINALS
NEVER BEEN CAUGHT
LOOKOUT REC.
True East-bay gutter-punks led by the notorious Jesse Lucious first full length is a phlegm filled, middle finger, slam pit inducing gem that this label was in need of releasing for quite some time. The Criminals waste no time with useless flash or harmonies, and get straight to the point delivering meat and potatoes (tofu and potatoes for you vegetarians) punk rock with attitude to spare. Raw and basic, the band pulls no punches as they lash out tune after tune reminiscent of the early 80's L.A. punk sound. I kept playing the track "The Girl With the Hole in Her Heart" over and over, a classic track, but really, it's all great. If you were a fan of BLATZ you should go out and get this, or better yet steal it.

-Maynard Krebs

POLLEN
PEACH TREE
WIND-UP RECORDS
Fast-paced pop music from Arizona. While I like the guitar sound, the relentless pace of the songs was wearying -- eventually the CD sounded like one big ball of pop, not a collection of individual songs. Recommended for fans of All and the Descendents.

-Empty

BIS
THIS IS TEEN-C POWER!
GRAND ROYAL RECORDS
According to the liner notes, bis is "a valiant teen-c force who fight for their rights to dig both disco and punk . . ." Hailing from currently fashionable Glasgow, bis puts out some of the freshest, catchiest music I've heard in a long time. Oddly, it doesn't sound disco to me at all -- it's very new wave. My CD pick of the month. Get it.

-Empty

STRONGARM
THE ADVENT OF A MIRACLE
TOOTH & NAIL RECORDS
Finally the new StrongArm is here, there must be a God! This Florida five piece gives new life to a hardcore scene that has become stagnant with bands who only attempt to clone one another (and don't do all that good of a job of it). Their musical style is innovative new school hardcore, and could be best described as a more creative and punk influenced version of Eleven Thirty-Four. The lyrics are screamed by Chris Carbonell and the main focus of the lyrics are to glorify God with true feeling rather than rhetoric. To some the thought of Christian hardcore may be hard to swallow, but all I can say is give me more.

-Jason Chittenden

CHAPTER ZERO
S/T
This self titled, full length CD is not bad. Might I add it is also a self produced first effort. The CD contains straight forward punk, reminiscent of Rhythm Collision. They're on the right track, a definite up and coming band to look for.

-Brandon Lucero

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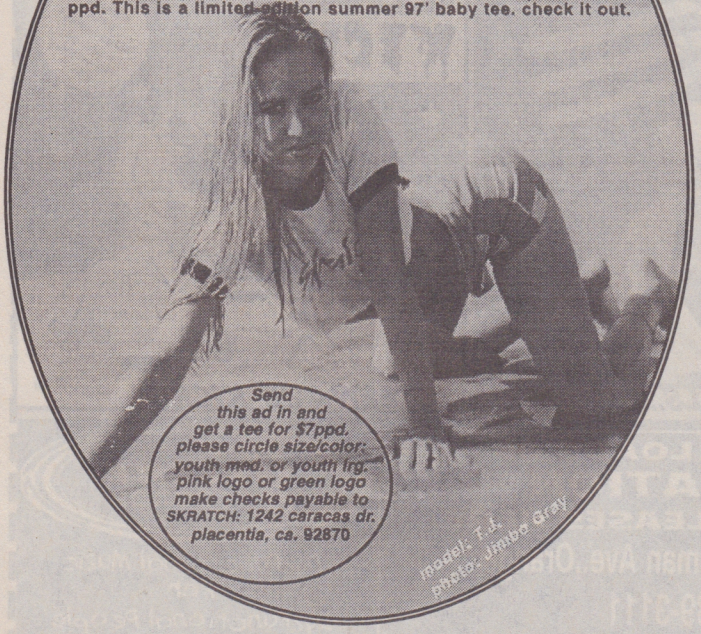

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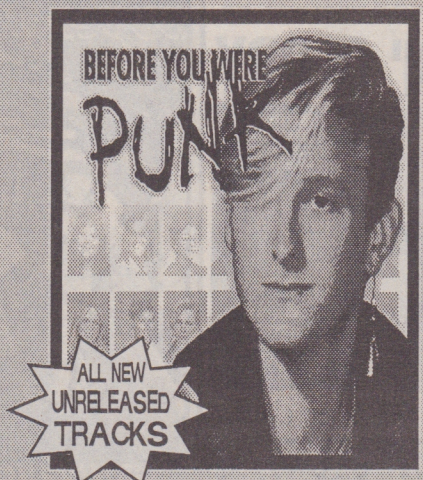

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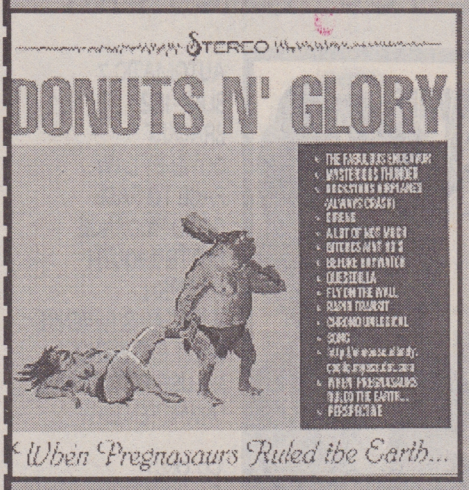

DONUTS N' GLORY.....SUPERGIRLS.....TEENAGE KICKS

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SILKWORM
DEVELOPER
MATADOR

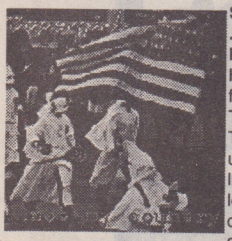
Creepy as the Breeder's "Pod", Missoula Montana's 3 Piece Silkworm evorkes forlorn emotions on "Developer", the band's fifth album. Like a man slowly being painted out of a picture, vocalist/bassist Tim Midgett chimes in some places ("Ice Station Zebra"), and almost moans in others ("The City Glows"). The guitar work on "The Devil is Beating His Wife" is superb. Some may pick up on the Sebadoh vibe emanating from Silkworm, but one must also keep in mind that Silkworm has been around since 1987. In its entirety, "Developer" is moody, disturbing, and tuneful.

-David Turbow

V/A
KEEP THE BEAT
HAIRBALL RECORDS

This compilation features some great bands like Sicko, Blink 182, No Use for A Name, Lagwagon, and Down By Law. Big Drill Car's cover of Husker Du's "Celebrated Summer" (the band never got a copy of from the German compilation it was originally recorded for) is terrific. The comp also gives exposure to such unsung San Diego heroes as The Dragons, Tiltwheel, Slowpoke, Discount, and Swindle. P.O. Box 26500, #111, San Diego, CA 92196

-David Turbow



SUPERGIRLS
...NOT MY COUNTRY
LIBERATION RECORDS

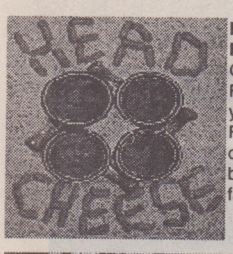
Hailing from Texas, the Supergirls are not the first band fit into the Socal punk scene. Following 30FootFall and The Mess-who have been here before preaching their Texas punk rock the Supergirls (actually all boys) round up some humid and hot punk rock. From the cd it seems like they have been influenced by The Queers, but it looks like they do have an original bone in the band to come off as something different. The music and song structure is very catchy, but still on the edge of doing what they want to do.

-Dan Gruia

STRAP
FOR THOSE WITH CONTEMPT
MEDINA RECORDS

Before there was punk, some of the baddest boys in music came from down south. Known for their solid musicianship, hot, nasty guitar licks and a live fast, die young lifestyle (which unfortunately came true for too many of them), southern rockers have produced some of the best music ever heard and have inspired and brought out the best in others. You might ask "who the hell were Derek and the Dominos?" because you probably think Eric Clapton is the author of Layla. Clapton wrote the words and sang the song, but it was good ole boy Duane Allman who wrote one of rock's most famous riffs that opens the song. If you're not impressed by that, keep in mind that it was Texan Joe Ely and his band whom the Clash chose to play with on their first tour, rather than choosing another punk band. End of history lesson. Strap is a Dallas-based trio that blends southern hard rock with metal and comes up with a good thing, hewing to the tradition of solid musical skill, hot guitar licks and soulful vocals. Standout songs on the CD are "Buzz Killer", "See You in the Next Life", "Everybody's All-American" and "Lover Man", not to mention the untitled hidden track. Dare to be different and try some rock n' roll.

-Empty



HEADCHEESE
FACE FULL O' CHILI

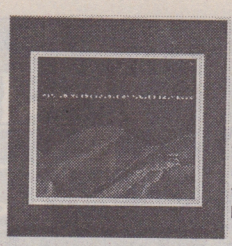
Good time punk/rock music from O.C. locals. Recommended for those who like lyrics meant to make you laugh. Superior songs are "Roger Noble", "Fist of Fury" and "Hemp". Least funny -- "Pull Over Joe". It's completely lacking in subtlety, plus it's really hard to believe that any guy genuinely believes that girls don't fart.

-Empty

MILLION SIX
FREE STICKER INSIDE!
SATELLITE

Yes there is a free sticker inside! This 3- piece put out some raw sounding punk with good chops. "Play with fire" is my favorite on these five song e.p. (I'm under the impression it's a cover). "Another song called..." has a cool little catchy chorus and is very likeable while still being a bit generic. Million Six is a staight up punk band with no gimmicks and no tricks. This is a good cd and their next effort I will look forward to.

- Lisa Apista



A NEW BEGINNING: FEATURING THE SOUNDS OF FULLY AND LADY LUCK
IJT RECORDS

On this comp., Fully starts it out. The vocals sound like Helmet, but more mellow. The music, but actually the whole package is very commercial. You'll probably hear them on KROQ soon. Lady Luck features Roger Miret, (formerly of Agnostic Front) on bass, its kind of weird to see these old school guys move on and expand their musical buds.

-Brandon Lucero

88 FINGERS LOUIE
88 FINGERS UP YOUR ASS
HOPELESS RECORDS

The final album from the now defunct high energy punk rock outfit, 88 Fingers Louie. This collection includes tracks from a 10" on Rocko Records, tracks from a 7" on Fat Wreck Chords, their very first self-titled 7", and live tracks from their last European tour. The insert is very well-written and documents the history of the band, tour mishaps, label hopping, lineup changes, and what the individual members are up to these days.

-David Turbow

SEXPOD
GODDESS BLUES
BMG DISTRIBUTION

Call me a sexist, but it was difficult to believe that this was an all-female band at first. The guitar sounds are nothing less than monstrous on "Goddess Blues". "Impenetrable" sounds like the wreckage of a car crash between the MC-5 and Hole. It is an unfortunate fact of life that a band usually needs a major label recording budget to produce the desired product-a heavier than heavy kick drum sound, thundering bass, and overall punch in the mix.

-David Turbow

PRY
S/T
TEMPERANCE RECORDS

Hey, this band features one of the guys from Burn so they can't be all that bad right? Well, they are an interesting form of slow driving metal influenced hardcore, but it loses it's charm after one track. I really wanted to like this four song EP but crap is crap plain and simple. They even try to imitate Orange 9mm in the guitar riffs (but Orange 9 does it way better), I won't even bring up the glam rock sounding vocals. I think that Pry only has an album out because of their previous experience in the hardcore scene, it sure isn't because they have any creativity.

-Jason Chittenden

PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES
SUPERMODELS C.D.
DR. STRANGE REC.

A new disc, hmmmm....itís a well known fact that the last three c.d.'s these guys have put out were total shit, even retaining the same line-up all these years hasnít helped, so with much apprehension I put this disc in the player and.....itís good, really good. Hell, it rocks! The boys are in top form here putting out a disc comparable to their "Mating Sounds of S. American Frogs" record. All the things that made the band great have resurfaced, catchy music, memorable sing-a-long choruses, and the humorous lyrics. Donít be mistaken, this isn't hardcore, but the band's smart sense of song writing will have you pogoing all over your bedroom. Tunes like "Giving Up Drinking" and the great "U Bore Me" brought a tear to my eye. Good to see them back where they belong.

Maynard Krebs

SLAPSTICK
S/T
ASIAN MAN RECORDS

Twenty-five tracks of punk-ska that may not break the barriers of originality, but rolls along smoothly like an Atrall bic razor. Slapstick's talents are in their beautifully bright and tight horns. You wish for more of 'em. Great music to dance to and shave to. With this many tracks, how can you go wrong? I'm a little sad about the quotation on the back of the cd panel stating " Thanks to everyone who shared in the experience of making slapstick. We will miss you. Thanks for the memories (1993-1996)."

- Scott Presant

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NAPALM DEATH

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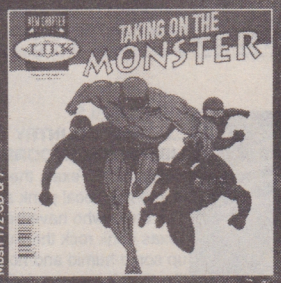


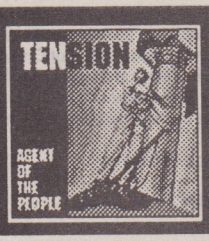
Mosh 172 CD & 7"

also available:

EARACHE

AN@L C#NT 'I Like It When You Die' (Mosh 169-CD) • CARCASS 'Wake Up And...' (Mosh 161 CD, MC & Video) • EARACHEMYEYE video comp. feat. Napalm Death, Entombed, At The Gates, etc.(Mosh 100-V) • NAPALM DEATH/COALESCE 'In Tongues We Speak' (Mosh 168 CD & 7")

FOR A CATALOG WRITE TO: EARACHE RECORDS. 295 LAFAYETTE ST. #915, NY, NY 10012 • http://www.earache.com • EaracheRec@aol.com • order info: 212.343.9380



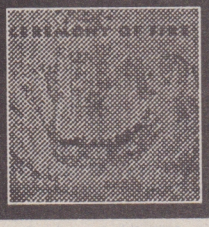
TENSION "AGENT OF THE PEOPLE" CD and LP (colored vinyl).

"Thick, churning guitars with stomp-ass percussion...great production...highly recommended."—*Skratch Magazine*
"...infectious hit-and-run vocal layering technique, resulting in an almost rap-like Biohazardesque delivery...definitely one of the better offerings for politicor enthusiasts."—*Chord Magazine*
"This Florida band returns with a full length of their revolutionary and inspiring brand of heavy HC. Goes from fast, powerful ala **Sick of it All** to heavy pounding grooves ala **Snapcase**, while keeping a lot of unique energy and power, as well as catchyness to it."—*Very Distribution*
"It sounds to me very much like **Judge** hanging out with **Rage Against the Machine**."—*Boar Dome* Zine

PRESSURE

See review in this issue of Skratch

DESTROY LA 4-song CD EP and 3-song 7" (limited color vinyl)
"It's as if Social Distortion and Jawbreaker came together as one...this is really catchy."—*Nothing Left*
"...catchy melodic pop punk ala NoFX or Pennywise, with socially conscious lyrics."—*Very Dist*
"Four songs of good Punk/HC with a late 80's touch to it, which can only add to the quality of Pressure's sound. Great sociopolitical lyrics...great live."—*dogprint* fanzine
Out Soon: New album with new lineup. Members have played in Bad Brains, Vegan Reich, Underdog, McRad, Captive Nation Rising and H.F.L.



"CEREMONY OF FIRE" CD and LP (colored vinyl). A Benefit album for Native American Activist Rod Coronado with 12 Hardcore, Metal, Punk, Hip hop and Reggae bands.

Featuring HED and EARTH CRISIS

"I can't say enough good things about this. This is a tribute comp. for A.L.F. member Rod Coronado, a Hispanic/Indian American who was sought out by the F.B.I. and imprisoned for his subversive activities which among other "crimes" included burning down a research center at Michigan State University which aided the Fur farm industry. Listen to the lineup; **Earth Crisis, Group of Individuals, Abnegation, Birthright, Birthrite, Hed, Captive Nation Rising, Painstake, and Sevin.** That's a mouthfull. Oh, I almost forgot, Miami favorites **Culture** and **Tension.** Songs range from mostly moshcore to metal, to reggae to straight up **clash** like punk".—*Rational Enquirer*

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CD EP	US $8	CAN/MEX $9	EUROPE/S.AMERICA $11	ASIA/AUSTRALIA $12
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IGGY AND THE STOOGES
RAW POWER C.D.
COLUMBIA REC.

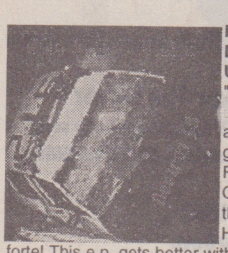
If anyone reading this considers themselves a fan of punk and does not own this c.d. then I will personally come to your house and kick the living crap out of you. Originally released in 1973, the stooges cranked out this classic record and their label hated it! It was considered too raw, too noisy, and basically became the first true "punk rock" l.p. to be recorded. In a panic they hired David Bowie to mix it and he basically helped to tone it down, but the raw energy and great songs still shone through the somewhat uneven and wimpy mix. Most people, (that have any musical taste) still consider this record a milestone of punk history, but always wanted to hear the album in its true raw form without having to succumb to the crappy bootleg offerings that are available. Well our prayers have been answered. This gem has been remixed by Iggy himself and is so damn raw that it will make your goddamn ears bleed. Filled with extensive liner notes, photos, and some of the best songs ever written, "Search and Destroy", "Gimme Danger", and the killer title track , you are a fool to not get this. Even if you already have the original version, throw that copy away and get this to hear this record the way it was meant to be heard. Punk fucking Rock.

-Maynard Krebs

OVERCOME
WHEN BEAUTY DIES
TOOTH & NAIL RECORDS

Overcome fits between the cracks of hardcore and death metal, but nonetheless they exhibit a skill which wasn't present on their first release. For lack of a better comparison, they fit into the same league as Bloodlet. When Beauty Dies features mainly lyrics about Jesus Christ and the evils that plaque this world. Musically this album is a cut above the rest and the lyrics take an honest and unrelenting look at what's gone wrong with our society. The two best things about this album is the rapture looking art work and the awesome bass playing of Ken Williamson; who's bass playing fills in all the gaps to perfection. So, if you're Christian, straight edge or simply looking for an interesting slant on hardcore pick up the latest Overcome.

-Jason Chittenden



PRESSURE
DESTROY L.A.
UPRISING

"We're not gonna take it, we're gonna rise," chants the anthem in the opening track of this 4 song ep and serves as a good example of what this band believes in. Playing garagey-poppy-punk music with old school roots, Pressure puts together good hooks reminiscient of The Queers-Lookout watch out! "Destroy L.A." and especially the "Destroy L.A." Dub version are the best tracks here. Hey guys-do more dub reggae shit--it could be your forte! This e.p. gets better with every listen and would make a fine addition to any punk rock collection.

-Scott Presant

J CHURCH
THE DRAMA OF ALIENATION
HONEST DON'S HARDLY USED RECORDINGS

Somewhere in between pop and punk, J Church stands alone. The lyrics flow well with the music, maybe that's because the've been playing toghther for a long time. It looks like Lance Hahn was and still is into poetry, which is very cool. It makes all the songs flow easy into the cluttered ears of today's youth. I think we're always looking for a new rhythm of noise, and J Church certainly has one.

-Dan Gruia

NAPALM DEATH / COALESCE
IN TONGUES WE SPEAK E.P.
EARACHE REC.

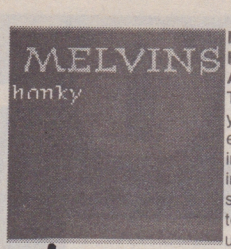
A worthy combination, Napalm Death the godfathers of grind forge two intense cuts that push the barriers of metal that shows there is more to the band than speed. Barneys' lyrics add depth to the bands already heavy assault, which complements the overall effect. Coalesce are the real stars here as they plow through two cranium smashing tracks guaranteed to scare the shit out of your mom. Utilizing the murder-core formula, they take the sound pioneered by DEADGUY and NEUROSIS and twist it into an even more fucked up beast. A short and sweet dose of brain damage.

- Maynard Krebs

THE SUPER FRIENDZ
SLIDE SHOW
MURDERECORDS

Earnest alternative pop for collegiate listeners who like their lyrics somewhat scholarly (i.e., the reference to that most unreadable of all English major tomes, Tristram Shandy). If you like the Beatles and Squeeze, youíll probably like Slide Show. Best songs are "Forever a Day" (also most Squeeze-like) and "Evening Sun."

-Empty



MELVINS
HONKY
AMPHETAMINE REPTILE RECORDS

This new release by the Melvins is very strange when you compare it to their past releases. It's more of an experimental noise record, theres not a whole lot of lyrics in the songs. But the music is very hypnotic and elevating. It moves freely from a high to a low like it's all part of some kind of master plan. The record includes a total of ten songs, ranging from a couple minutes to 8 or 10 minutes. Oh, did you know they used to be on Capitol Records? Song number six seems to be about that. Check it out if you wanna find out what happened. There's a lesson in there, hope you find it too.

-Jen Apackeverythreedays

SACK LUNCH
S/T
RED EYE RECORDS

Rob Machado, undoubtedly one of the very best contest surfers in the entire world, plays guitar in this band. Not surprisingly, Sack Lunch has landed big time sponsorship from within the surf industry. That being said, Sack Lunch is at least a competent pop/punk influenced alternative rock beand based out of San Diego. Their roots are planted firmly in the '80s tradition of bands like the Johnny's and Wall of Voodoo on their full length debut. The vocalist has a familiar twang to it that I couldn't put my finger on for the life of me. Perhaps it was Peter Murphy. Red Eye Records. P.O. Box 16717. San Diego, CA 92176

-David Turbow

BLUE MEANIES
FULL THROTTLE
THICK RECORDS

This is a band that fuses old blue beat ska with odd metered jazz, and tempered with a healthy measure of punk rock. The concoction makes for a tangled, angsty, demented sound. Without horns, "The Great Democracy" could easily pass for a LARD song. Singer Billy Spunke rants about topics of sociopolitical significance, as exemplified by "The Noise of Democracy" where he shouts, "red tape, beauraucratic ache, noise of democracy". Having played the Warped Tour, and toured with Goldfinger and Reel Big Fish, the Blue Meanies are well on their way to success.

-Da. urbow

BIGWIG
UNMERRY MELODIES
FEARLESS RECORDS

Bigwig wants to have that NOFX sound, and the talent that is exhibited in Lagwagon's guitars. However, Bigwig falls way short of virtually any band who's ever been on Fat Wreck Chords. The only positive thing that can be said about this CD is the excellent drum work by Dan. Although Bigwig is far from original, I can't put these guy's down too much, because they grew on me with repeated listenings. All I'm going to say is that if you have that whole mind set that says "if it's anything like NOFX then it's good," then you'll more than likely think Bigwig is the shiznick.

-Bjork & Devon Chittenden

DUB WAR
PAIN
EARACHE RECORDS

What's that, your sick of all that pop-punk-ska crap? Well Dub War just maybe the cure for what ails you. With a musical style that is mainly techno/trip-hop hardcore with outbursts of rap, reggae, punk, pop and even jazz; how could you go wrong with this CD? This English multi-faceted band shows that a culmination of styles can actually sound smooth without having that "experimental-confusion" sound. The only real complaint that I have is that many of the guitar riffs have that Korn/Marilyn Manson feel. Dub War could really find America to be a profitable market with the recent popularity explosion of genre deifying bands like Prodigy and White Town and even (hed)p.e.

-Jason Chittenden

USED TO BE (VARIOUS ARTISTS)
BLUES FROM THE PACIFIC DELTA (FOR BILL MONROE)
UNDERCOVER RECORDS

If you don't like roots music, stop reading now. If you do, and you especially like the acoustic approach of such performers as John Doe, the Knitters or James Intveld, you should buy this CD. The songs are all beautifully performed and very heartfelt. Especially good are Lisa Miller's "Trailer Park Honey", Fernando's "Edgar Casey Blues", Kevin Richey's "Lamentations" and Pete krebs' "Shady Grove."

-empty

DEMO-LICIOUS

COURSE OF RUIN

With their stop-start guitar riffs and melodic pulloffs on the upper strings, COURSE OF RUIN is yet another OC band going after the New School brass ring. "Those Dayz" is a song which reminisces about the innocence of youth. "Kids" opens up with a sample from the movie of the same title before kicking into its new school progressions. Some work needs to be done on the vocal harmonies, but this is a world of improvement over their previous demo. (714)526-5591

THE DECAPITONES

"Me-Ted" is a song with upbeat ska verses and punk rock choruses. "Phillipe Douchette" begins with a surfy instrumental passage, before shifting towards ska. The Decapitones play the fast light-hearted happy type of music that teens are craving right now. "A.K.A. Money" bears striking similarities to Reel Big Fish, both in sound and in theme about being sellouts, "We're makin' money, yeah we're takin' it in". The recording is very well-produced, the product is marketable, and the musicianship is solid. (714)855-1113.

HOLY SHIT

Shit yeah! An instrumental thrash band who goes after that "Kill 'Em All" era Metallica sound, and they hail from OC. The tape reminded me of the wipeout scenes from my favorite surf movie of all time, Runman 69, where the guys were breaking their boards after being pummelled on the rocks at some secret spots in L.A. County. (714)891-2397

LARVAE

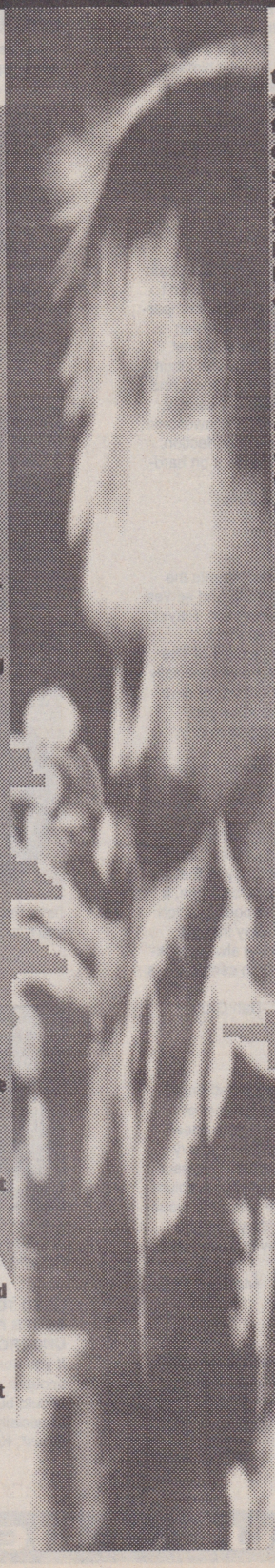
It's cool to hear a band with a wide variety of musical influences. This is the first band to come around in a long time to go for the NoMeansNo meter chops. On "Down the Drain" the opening feedback laden slide guitar riff builds tension into a mounting pile of vocal anger. In other places they use wah pedals. They consider themselves "Hard Driving In Your Face Music". With song titles like "Violent World", "Selfish Greedy", and "Blood Urine", who am I to disagree? Very impressive. (714)891-2397

NO SOLUTION

A punk rock demo produced by Jim Monroe at For The Record, with leanings towards early Social D and perhaps DI. The guitarists, Ryan Miller and Joe Lint, are quite competent with their blazing fast blues riffs, especially on "Love It All". In the song, "All the People" you'll find lyrics inspired by hostility towards females, such as "What the fuck is wrong with you, can't you see that we are through?".

ON-TAP

A highly enjoyable Redlands based hardcore punk band dedicated to parties, women, and cold beer on tap. And just when you thought that Drain Bramaged had the market cornered! Song titles include "On Tap", "Get Fucked", "Dish Rag Slob" and "Imperial Beer Run". If you can't have a good laugh at this, then you're simply too old.The extent of their political influence is exemplified in their tune, "Al Bundy For President". They even cover Minor Threat's "Small Man, Big Mouth". (909)617-2717



OUT NUMBERED

A young south OC based new school punk band. Since the recording of this 12 song demo, they've replaced the singer (who apparently sounded a bit too much like NOFX for their taste). The lyrics primarily reflect adolescent concerns, but that's cool because they're still in high school and show plenty of room for growth and maturation. They have a nice sense of humor (as demonstrated by the song "Old School (sux)"), although I must add that the song, "You Are My Sunshine" was probably better left unpunked. Band leader Mark Johnston's bass guitar playing and lead guitar chops carry the band throughout. (714)770-0403.

TIED DOWN

This is a demo cassette from their upcoming 7", "Can't Stand to Lose", which features two songs: "this world" and "your rules". They remind me of D.R.I. a bit with their crossover blend of hardcore punk and chugging metal riffs.(914)562-7379
P.O. Box 547 Valls Gate, NY 12584 email: horton47@aol.com

UNLEADED PLUS "Savor The Flavor"

Another band that mixes NOFX/Guttermouth style vocals with ska upstrumming. Encinitas, CA 92023-0180

DEMO REVIEWS
by David Turbow.

Dave's Demo Tips of the Month:
(1) Keep Demo Concise. Sure, your band might have 40 hits, but you only need to put 3 or 4 of them on tape. Club bookers will usually only listen to about 30 seconds of the first song in making their decision on whether or not to book you, anyways. Moreover, record labels, magazines, and management agencies receive copious amounts of material and seldom take the time to listen to more than 6 songs. Believe me.
(2) Remove Recording Tabs. If you send in a 3 song demo on a 90 min. cassette with the recording tabs still in it, chances are that it will be recorded over. It's a cruel world. On the other hand, if you take the time to punch out the recording tabs, it sends a message to the reviewer that he/she will have to bust out the Scotch tape in order to record over your demo. If reviewer really wants to reuse the tape, he/she can purport to be an environmentalist and conservationist of precious landfill space (i.e."At least I'm not throwing the tape away!"). By punching out the recording tabs, you make the non-verbal statement: "Hey, please don't record over my demo, fucker."

Hey! Send in your damn demolicious rectangular plastic slabs-o-audio so we can say the things we wanna say about them. This section is for you. So bands-send em in and we'll review them. Thanks-you cool cats.
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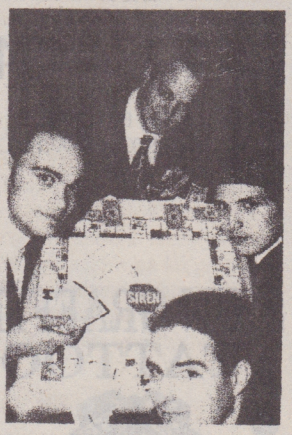

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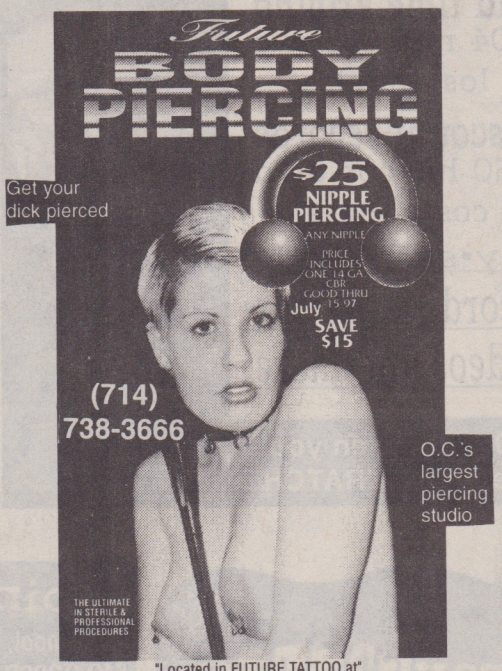

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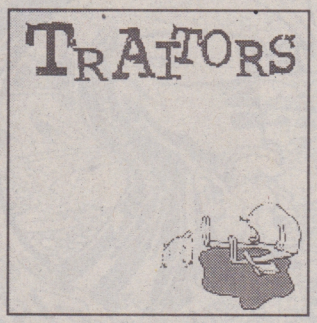
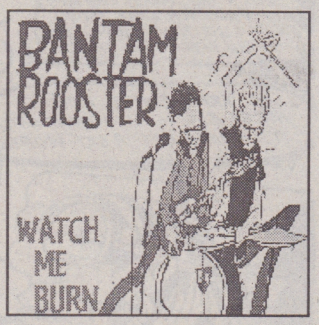


TRAITORS
JOHANNS FACE



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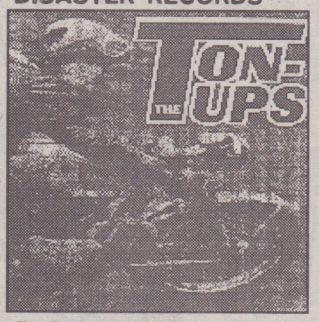

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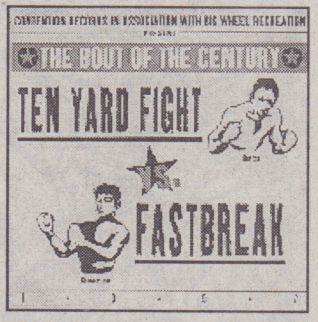

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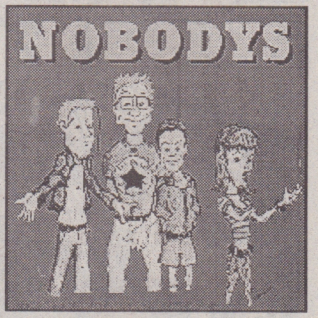

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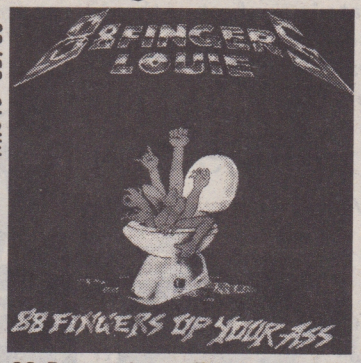

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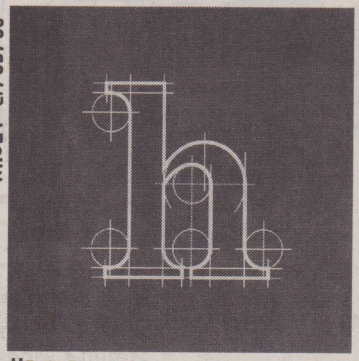

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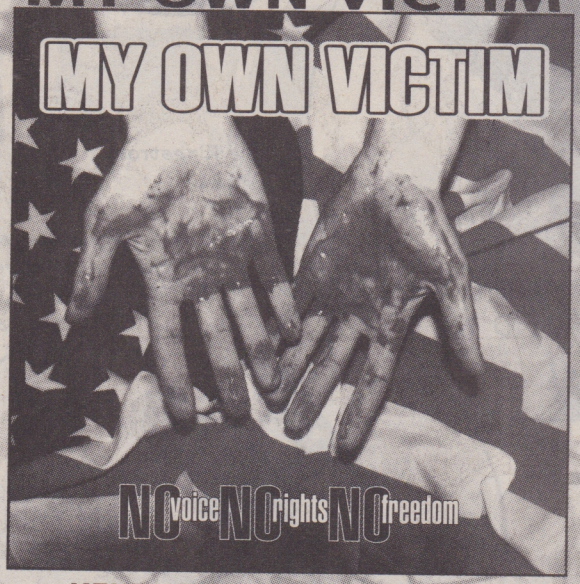

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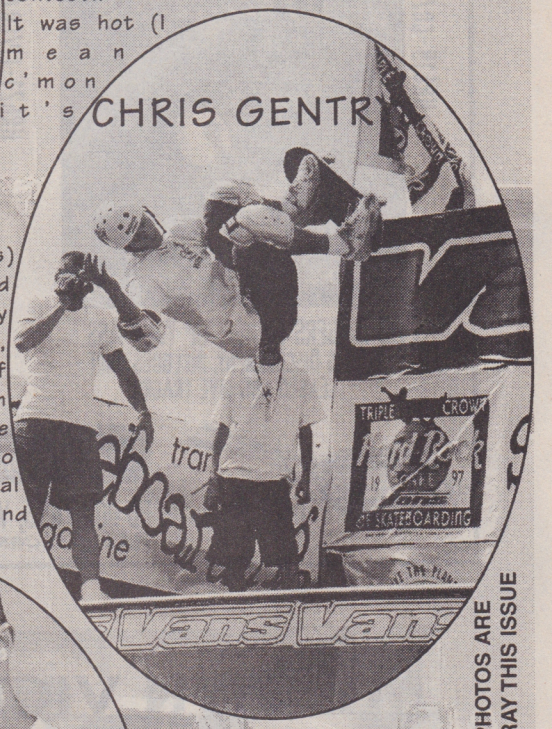
CHRIS GENTRY

Okay. Here we are at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV. for the first stop of the 1997 Vans/ Hard Rock Cafe Triple Crown of Skateboarding (presented by TransWorld Magazine). This two day event was sponsored in part by: Rolling Stone Magazine, The Edge (KEDG 103.5 fm), Dickies, Spawn Comic, and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Set on the parking lot of the Hard Rock Cafe, this two-day event brought boarders from all around the U.S. and other countries to participate in the first of three stops on this tour/ contest..

It was hot (I mean c'mon it's Vegas) and quite windy for both days, but the boarders skated their butts off Saturday in order to make the semi-finals on Sunday. Only 20 boarders made it into the semi-finals along with 10 seeded boarders who did not need to qualify. They had the usual booths (sponsors, local radio stations and local business involved in skateboarding). I had a chance to hang out with semi-finalist Chris Gentry and his wife Ricca on Saturday just after he finished qualifying for Sunday's events.



I came back on Sunday in time to see the semi-final. Qualifying heats were earlier in the day and narrowed them down to these 10 people:

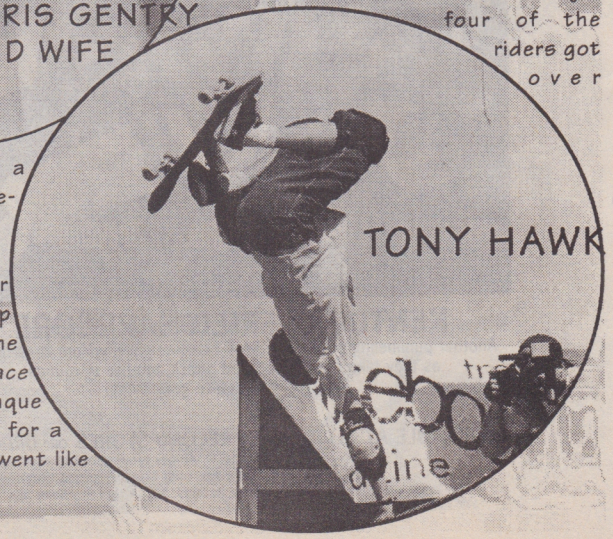
Bob Brumquist Omar Hassan
Max Dufour Chris Gentry
Darren Menditto Rune Glifberg
Neal Hendrix Andy McDonald
Mahais Ringstrom
Tony Hawk

CHRIS GENTRY AND WIFE

ALL SKATE PHOTOS ARE BY JIMBO GRAY THIS ISSUE

The semi-finals were intense. With the best of three trys, four of the riders got over 90 in their scores. There were a couple of scary wipe-outs with Max Dufour and Omar Hasean both needing help to get off of the pipe. In the end Tony Hawk took 1st place taking home a Hard Rock Cafe plaque and a check for $3,000.00 Not bad for a few hours of skateboarding, huh? I talked with Tony after his win and it went like this.....(see next page).....

CHRIS GENTRY



TONY HAWK

-Jimbo Gray

Name: Tony Hawk
Age: 29
Lives: Originally form San diego, and now residing in Carlsbad
Sponsors: Airwalk, Rusty Clothing, Arnett sunglasses, Jones Soda

J: So how did you feel about your performance?
TH: Happy. Really happy.

J: Do you have any favorite moves or style?
TH: I like just about anything that keeps me flowing from one trick to another and can keep up my speed.

J: How long have you been skateboarding?
TH: About 19 years.

J: Do you have any influences in your boarding (i.e., other boarders or a certain band you listen to when
oarding?)
TH: Steve Caballero is a big influence. Musically, well I've really been into the Clash lately.

J: What do you do in your spare time?
TH: Take care of my son and my business (Birdhouse skateboards). I also like surfing and snowboarding
(in the winter).

Another top skater I had the opportunity to chat with was Chris Gentry, who finished in 8th place:

Name: Chris Gentry
Lives: Originally from Houston,TX now lives in Costa Mesa.

J: So, How long have you been skateboarding?
CG: About 14 years.

J: Do you have any influences?
CG: Yeah. Tony Hawk, Steve Caballero, Bob Brumquist, Rune Glifberg, Mike Crum.

J: Do you listen to a particular band or music when you board?
CG: Rap music as well as my own.

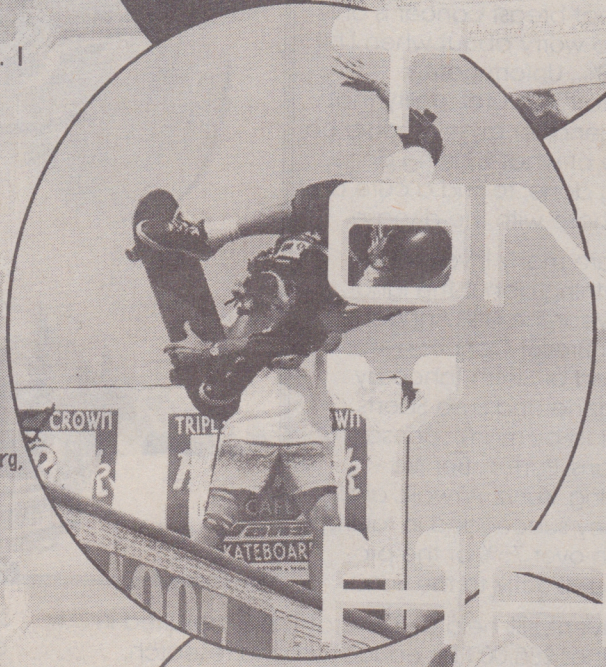
J: Do you have any favorite moves?
CG: I like doing 540's, indie 360's & variations of blunt tricks.

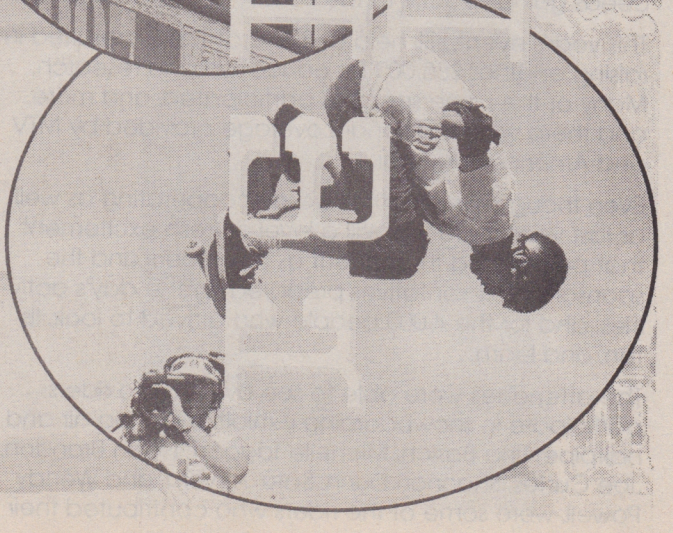
J: What's a typical day for you?
CG: I work on my business (Kingdom Skateboards) with my wife, Ricca from 8-6. Then I go train from 6-8:30. Then I'm in the studio from 8:30-3am.

J: What kind of music do you play?
CG: My label is Kingdom Skatecraft Records and I play rap music.

J: How did you feel about your performance (in the qualifying contest)?
CG: It was windy and hot, but I was feeling good and I think I'll do well tomorrow.

-Jimbo Gray





ALL SKATE PHOTOS ARE BY JIMBO GRAY THIS ISSUE

Boarding for Breast Cancer Was a Day to Look, Listen, and Learn How to Live

-Kim Owens

My best friend came to my apartment with this look in her eyes of amazement and worry. She was holding an article on the Boarding for Breast Cancer event. What really caught my attention was how the whole event got it's start a few years back. Monica Steward of Bonfire Snowboarding Clothing had contracted breast cancer at the age of 26 and died at the age of 29. "Oh, my God, I'm older than her right now!" kept repeating itself over and over in my mind as I read on.

I've never believed that ignorance is bliss, and I've obviously been ignorant in thinking that breast cancer is only something to worry about when I hit my 40's or 50's. Unfortunately, Monica's death is brutal reality that any of my friends or myself should be more aware of what is being done, or not being done, to find a cure and to support those with the disease.

Now there are many involved in doing something about the ignorance. Last year the First Annual Boarding for Breast Cancer event was launched at Sierra Tahoe by W.I.G. Magazine and Fuse Sports, accompanied by many sponsors including Vans, Burton, Bonfire Snowboarding, Kurvz, Airwalk, and Sessions. They succeeded in raising $50,000, with over 75% of the proceeds going directly to the Fund.

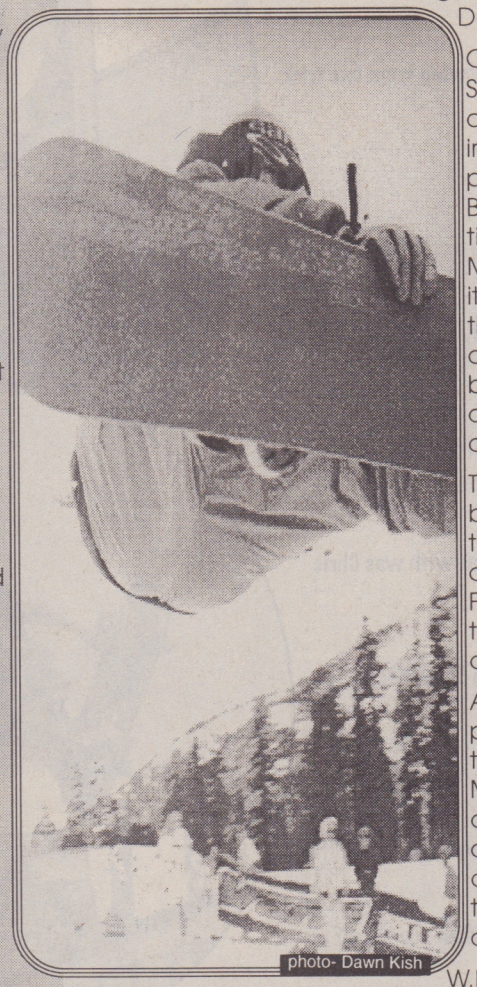


photo- Dawn Kish

This year's event, still held at Sierra at Tahoe, resulted in raising another $55,000 for education and research. Many of the same sponsors participated, and more, and there was additional coverage provided by MTV and American Journal.

Even though the weather wasn't cooperating as well as last year, there was still a level of fresh excitement that permeated throughout as volunteers and the sponsor's representatives prepared for the day's activities, and for the 4,000 people who arrived to look, listen, and learn.

The attendees were able to see over 75 pro riders participate in snowboarding exhibitions in big air and halfpipe. Tina Basich, Michelle Taggart, Noah Brandon, Joe Curtes, Shannon Dunn, Satu Jarvela, and Wendy Powell, were some of the riders who contributed their time, talent and registration fees.

Cara Beth Burnside and Jimi Scott came in first place for the Pro halfpipe. Pro Big Air was won by Katrina Warnick and Eric Klassen, and the Am Big Air first place award went to Michelle Shetler and Sean Tedore.

And in addition to being able to snowboard themselves, people could take a break in the day and check out the bands who were scheduled to entertain, including Angel Face, 7 Year Bitch, Primus, That Dog, and Luscious Jackson.

Other activities included The BBC Scavenger Hunt, which was devised as a fun way for attendees to gather information and get to know other people. The hunt took you to the Breast Cancer booth to gather educational literature, and to the W.I.G. Magazine booth. There they had a visiting nurse on hand to answer questions put to her by young women such as, how to do an exam if you've had breast implants. And the women were also able to pick up unique nail polish and lipstick, donated by Urban Decay.

There was also a raffle for snowboards, boots, and clothing, all donated by the sponsors, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Fund. Sponsors also donated product to be sold at reduced prices and again, it all went to the fund.

Anarchy Eyewear had a long line of people in front of their booth, waiting to spin their Sunglass Wheel of Fortune. Men and women, girls and boys, paid a nominal fee to take their turn at a chance to win cool eye attire worth anywhere from $50-$100. Considering they did this all day, they're product donation must have been substantial.

W.I.G. Magazine was one of the key sponsors whose focus is supporting women in sports, art, music, and culture. Dawn Kish from W.I.G. was one of Monica Steward's close friends and was here again to contribute time and effort to something that has affected her in a very personal way. "This year we have a booth, but I really want to promote education. We're really trying to increase self-examination in young women. Monica got breast cancer at 26 and died at 29. I'm 26 now," she says.

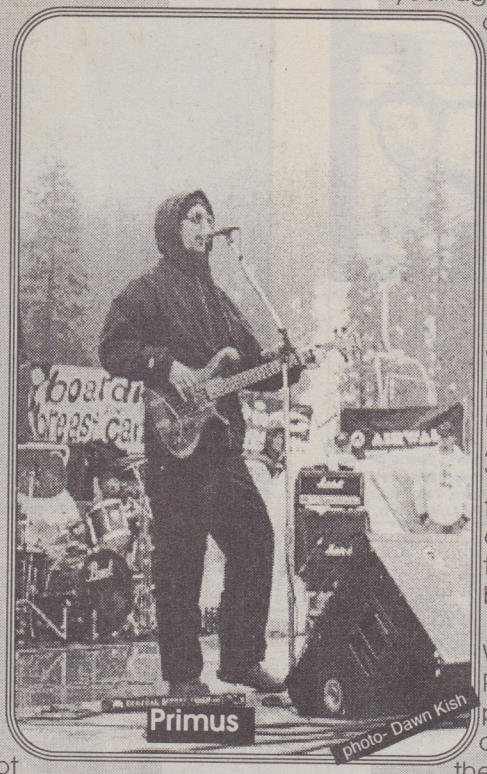
Kathleen Gasperini, the Editor/Owner and "Big Wig" at W.I.G. Magazine, tells of a frightening fact, "More than 1.8 million women in this country have the disease - and 1 million more don't know they have it." Reasons behind the lack of diagnosis is once again the ignorance factor. It is assumed that young women are not at risk, and that lumps are thought to be a

clogged milk duct or something else.

Tisha and I had her mascot in tow, the Bulldog Reflecting Attitude, and Phoebe was getting her usual amount of attention. The guys from American Journal turned their camera's on her photogenic mug and started interviewing Tisha with a question, "Do you think people in the Gen X generation who snowboard can really contribute to a cause like this?" First, the whole "Gen X" generalization is pretty tired. Second, the billion dollar snowboarding industry was created by all the people whose passion for snowboarding got them into the business and as a result, has accounted for a very successful industry. And third, all they had to do was look around them and they would have an answer to their question.

There were as many men as women who were adamant about doing what they could to support the Breast Cancer fund. John Pittengero and Tim Sowers from Vans were working their booth again this year. Tim says, "I think things like this, Board-Aid and BBC, is a good thing because it brings people out to snowboard and all the companies to support it. It's kind of a new concept and it works."

John adds, "Now there's a lot more women involved in the sport. I think it's a great event. Everyone that came last year was really stoked on it. The word got out and it makes the deal a lot bigger for this season."



Primus photo- Dawn Kish

Well, I found out there's not a sexual discrimination issue with Breast Cancer because men can get it too. Another friend, Sharlene Strabley, who had made the trek with us to Sierra was well aware of this fact. Her grandfather had contracted breast cancer just a few years back. Over 1,400 men are diagnosed every year with breast cancer, and 290 men die.

I was made aware of this statistic by Susan Izzo, a snowboard photographer who wanted to do something for BBC herself. She had an exhibit set up which displayed photographs and poems from breast cancer patients from her home town of Burlington, Vermont. She explains, "I recruited women in the area with breast cancer, or survivors, and worked with them for three months developing relationships and photographs."

She also had quite a display of breast cancer facts she had gathered in her own research. She goes on to say, "I was really fortunate and honored to work with them. Each woman was so different in the diagnosis, how they are treating themselves, and how they're living their lives."

One of her displays included a serious of poems written by Pat Fontaine, taken from her book, "Lifting My Shirt." Susan tells me, "She wrote from the day she was diagnosed. Every day she writes and every day a new poem comes out of her. Each one is so different, the stages and steps and feelings she's been experiencing over the past five years" she says.

The next display was of two women, Lee and her partner Jony. Lee was diagnosed with breast cancer one year ago, and has taken a more natural approach to treatment. Susan explains, "She has been one of my biggest inspirations, I will be friends with her for life. She's using the holistic method of healing, she's not going to modern medicine. That's what she believes in, and that's how she's going to do it," she says adamantly. Once again, I was not aware that this was an option for someone, but from what Susan told me, it was working out well for her.

Well, Mother Nature wasn't too hip on having a concert that day and as a result, things got started a little late. Angle Face came on first and then 7 Year Bitch, whose raging sound exploded throughout the hills. The sets were short and sweet, with no one knowing whether they would make it to the next band before a down pour.

Well, That Dog finished just in time, but Primus didn't. Much to everyone's surprise, they donned rain gear and went on anyway, basically taking their lives into their own hands by performing with chances of electrocution. Now that's dedication. Luscious Jackson passed and played their gig at a crowded club environment, Mulligan's, later that evening.

Awareness of the facts behind breast cancer was the main goal, and as a result, it was a day of learning for everyone, including myself.

Since that day I've gotten a chance to read an article Monica Steward had written for W.I.G. after her surgery, and it was then that reality hit. She relates the fear of finding out she had breast cancer, the pain of her surgery, and her optimism for 100% recovery. Her outlook on life was so positive when she faced death head on. And she poses a question that I ask myself, and pose to you now, "Why do we need to have a near death experience to thrust us into living life the way we're supposed to?"

For more information on the Breast Cancer Fund, contact them at 800-487-0492, or write to them at The Breast Cancer Fund, 282 Second Street, Third Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

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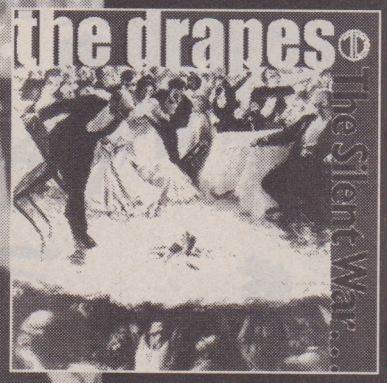

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